**2 Ki 1 / Jn 15**

**Main theme: Obey and preach the Word, and always be in the Lord; hate the Word and die quickly**

 **-Dishonor God / In the Lord**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 1:16 Jn15:7

A discussion on dishonoring God and in the Lord - on one side it concerned Ahaziah, the son of Ahab reigned. He injured himself but would not call on to God. Instead he went to inquired of the foreign gods and was rebuked by the prophet. He did not repent and take lesson. He even wanted to kill the prophet and finally died for dishonoring God. On the other side it concerned Jesus talked about the parable of the vine. He wanted us to be always in the Lord and to unite with Him so we might be fruitful to glorify God. If we were apart from the Lord, we would be withered and burnt like the ending of Ahab. We ought to imitate Elijah so God be our close friend and always be in His Word and love. We will be full of courage to rebuke evil to witness and glorify the Lord.

**A. Always in the Lord to obey and preach the Word; forsake the Lord will die**

Dishonor (2 Ki 1:1-8) - Unite (Jn 15:1-11)

1.【Do not take lesson will die】1-8 Ahaziah continued Ahab as the king of Israel. He ought to have taken the lesson. But he was not careful and did not tremble. He acted presumptuously and depraved in grace. He fell through the lattice of his upper room and was injured. He was sick but he did not inquire of God. Instead he sent his messenger to consult Baal-Zebub (king of the flies), the god of Ekron. Elijah the prophet was sent to rebuke him for consulting the foreign god and not the God of Israel. Thus, he had to die. Ahaziah still did not confess his sins and was not contrite. He even questioned who was this prophet and wanted to kill him.

※【Forsake the Lord will be withered and burnt】1-11 The Lord is the true vine. He cuts off every branch in Him that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. Ahaziah reigned but he did not unite with God. He was not always in the Lord. He was off from the standard of God's words and depraved in grace. After he was wounded, he did not seek the prophet. Instead he consulted the foreign god. He was unwilling to be pruned by the Word of the Lord like branches off the tree would wither. Elijah suffered to preach the Word. He boldly rebuked. Though he was hated by men, he was always in the Lord full of joy. We ought to read the Scriptures and pray in the Spirit and unite with the Lord to keep us always in God's love lest we will deprave in grace. (Jude :20-21)

**B. Be bold to preach the Word, be the Lord's friend and the miracles will testify**

God testifies (2 Ki 1:9-18) - The Lord be your friend (Jn 15:12-27)

1.【Dishonor God and is consumed by fire】9-12 Ahaziah was sick but he did not inquire of God. Nor did he examine himself. He even hated the rebuke of the prophet like Ahab. He then sent a captain with his fifty men to Mount Carmel to catch the man of God. He had added sins to his sins. The two captains with their fifty men whom the king sent twice were burned by the heavenly fire for they despised God. Ahaziah was stiff-necked and still not afraid. He sent the third group to seize and kill the prophet.

※【Walk the Lord's way and always bear fruit】12-17 The Lord's commands are to love one another as He has loved us. If we obey his commands, we are His friends like Elijah hid in the Lord bearing fruit and without fear. Ahaziah did not have the Lord's Word in him and was against God. He did not understand God's discipline and the love of rebuke. He hated the prophet and God's words. The first two captains also despised God and were against God. Thus they were burnt to death.

2.【God testifies and be filled with power】9-12 Elijah the prophet was the man of God of the age. He was a fiery prophet. He sat on the top of Mount Carmel hidden in God. He dwelled with the God of the consuming fire. How holy and jealous! He had the authority to command fire to come down from heaven to destroy the wicked. (Isa 33:14-16) God testifies His workers are full of power whom the enemy cannot harm.

※【The Lord be our friend and ask and be granted】12-17 The Lord loves us and laid down His life for us. He is our friend and He calls us friends. He no longer calls us servants. The Lord also promised the Father will give us whatever we ask in His name. Elijah was intimate with God. He was a close friend of God and a spokesman of His will. Therefore whatever he asked was granted. He was the man of God testified by God, a worker of the consuming fire filled with power.

3.【Be sent to preach boldly】13-18 The captain of fifty men sent by the king on the third time was humble and disciplined. He trembled in fear and fell on his knees before the prophet. He begged the man of God and was shown mercy without being burned. Elijah the prophet took the order and went with the captain. He boldly met the king and declared God's judgment on him. Ahaziah was unwilling to repent till death. Sure enough he died for despising God exactly as what God had said through Elijah.

※【The Holy Spirit comes to witness the Lord】18-27 The disciples were chosen by God. They did not belong to the world. How the world hated the Lord and it would hate the disciples of God as well. But God promised to send the Spirit of truth to testify for the Lord. The disciples too, had to testify for the Lord because they had been with Him from the beginning. Elijah was sent by God and was also a testimony of God. The Spirit of God also testified for him. The world hated the disciples without reason, that was hating the Lord and His words without reason. They had no excuse for their sin. Ahaziah hated the prophet without reason and wanted to kill him. He in fact hated God. His sins were heinous and he too, had no excuse for his sins. The history testified his evil. Only the third captain of fifty came humbly for help in trembling and he was favored from the disaster.

**Ps 94 / Rev 16:1 Main theme: God will punish the evil; honor the Lord and obey His Word will rejoice in due time**

 **-Avenge / God is angered**

The bowls of God's wrath is about to be poured out. God's children ought to endure and obey the Word till the end for God's righteous judgment will come on the whole land.

(1)【Call on God to avenge】1-6 How long will the wicked crush the people and slay the widow and the fatherless?

(2)【The wicked are self-deceiving】7-11 They thought God did not see and did not hear.

(3)【Overcome by faith】12-23 Though the children of God are in distress and disciplined by Him. They will be blessed because God will not reject His people. He will sustain, help and comfort them. The wicked will be avenged and be destroyed by God.

**Central point of the wheels: There are blessings in the Lord; to go against God will bring anger**

Dear Lord, I am willing to be always in You to be fruitful, to be your friend and be guarded by You, to witness You and glorify You!

**2 Ki 2 / Jn 16**

**Main theme:** **Fix your eyes on the Lord's words, swear to follow closely and gain a double portion of the spirit**

 **-Follow closely / Fix your eyes**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 2:9-10 Jn 16:12-13

A discussion on following closely and fixing your eyes - on one side it concerned that before Elijah was taken up to Heaven, Elisha followed him from one place to another place. He fixed his eyes to follow till the end and finally gained a double portion of the spirit. On the other side it concerned before Jesus left the earth, He encouraged the disciples to pay attention to the words of the Lord lest they might fall. The Lord promised to grant them the Spirit of truth so they might understand the Lord's words. There would be sufferings on earth but there would be peace in the Lord. This teaches us we ought to follow the Lord closely till the end, to fix our eyes on His words all our lives and to advance forcefully to heaven. (Mt 11:12) Then we would gain a double portion of the spirit, full of the Spirit of truth just like Elisha.

**A. Fix your eyes on the Lord's words, follow closely till the end and gain a double portion of the spirit**

Follow closely (2 Ki 2:1-10) - Remember firmly (Jn 16:1-15)

1.【Swear to follow closely without departing】1-3 Elisha followed Elijah with a different spirit. He paid all the price to follow till the end. But he had to go through the test of each stop. He knew Elijah was to be taken up to heaven. He started to follow from Gilgal. (rolling away) At this stop he had to roll away the shame of his sins. He swore to determine not to leave the man of God and followed Elijah to Bethel. (house of God) His life was united with God and he was able to see Him. Then he was able to overcome the confusion of the idol of the gold calf and his faith was tested. (1 Ki 12:25-33) The company of the prophets at Bethel knew but they did not follow. Only Elisha loved the prophet and did not leave him. He followed closely in silence without caring for their words.

※【Fix your eyes on the Lord's words to avoid falling】1-4 Before Jesus took the suffering, He told the disciples to pay attention to His words lest they might fall like Elisha followed closely after Elijah. The time would come and men would put them out of the synagogue and to kill them and thought they were offering a service to God. These people did not know the Father or the Son. The minds of the company of the prophets at Bethel knew, but they did not truly know God. In following the path, we have to face the temptation of the gold calf on one side. On the other side we need to face the horrible persecution. Only those who are like Elisha to have the determination and the faith to follow closely and fix the eyes on the Lord's words, then they may follow till the end and be more than victory.

2.【Ask for a double portion of the spirit】4-10 Elijah was sent to Jericho. Elisha still swore not to leave the man of God. This stop he had to overcome the fragrance of the world and the temptation of fame, benefit and lust and the entanglement of secular affection. The company of the prophets at Jericho also knew but did not follow. They gained nothing. Finally Elijah was sent to cross the Jordan. Elisha still had the determination of death to face the dead river. He followed closely without turning away just like Paul had a spirit to die every day to charge forward to follow the Lord till the end. Fifty men of the company of the prophets stood at a distance but did not follow. Elisha followed Elijah and crossed the Jordan. He died out alive and walked on dry ground. After they had crossed the river, Elijah asked him what he could do for him. He pleaded to inherit a double portion of his spirit. He really knew what to ask for. Though it was difficult, if he fixed his eyes, he would get it.

※【Gain the Spirit of truth】5-15 As Jesus had to leave, the disciples were filled with grief. The Lord promised to send the Counselor, so men would be convicted of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. The Lord also promised to send the Spirit of truth to guide them into all truth. Therefore the disciples had to experience to die and to live with the Lord so their lives might change to be contrite and renewed to follow closely till the end like Elisha. Then they would inherit the double portion of the Spirit that was the Spirit of truth.

**B. Ask and be granted, see God's miracles, suffer hardship and grief turn to joy**

Ask and be granted (2 Ki 2:11-25) - Ask wantonly (Jn 16:16-33)

1.【Gain a double portion of spirit】11-18 Elisha followed Elijah till the end and surely saw Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. He then tore his clothes apart and picked up the cloak of the prophet. He inherited the duty, the gift and the power of the prophet. From then on he no longer acted by his own righteousness but by the double portion of the Holy Spirit. By faith he struck the water with the cloak and crossed the Jordan. The company of the prophets at Jericho saw by their very eyes and witnessed 'the Spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha!' They came to meet him and bowed humbly before him.

※【Grief turn to joy】16-29 Jesus told the disciples in a little while they would see Him no more, and then after a little while they would see Him. But they did not understand like the company of prophets at Jericho. They saw from a distance but did not gain anything. When Jesus left, the disciples would weep and mourn while the world would rejoice. But after the disciples had gone through the hardship, grief would turn to joy. Elisha had gone through all the tests of each stop and a lot of suffering and trials. Now he was full of joy. The time had come when the Lord would no longer use figurative language. The Holy Spirit would reveal everything. The fifty men were unwilling to suffer to follow, they looked for Elijah in vain.

2.【Miracles follow】19-25 The city of Jericho was full of worldly filth. The water was bad and the land was unproductive. Elisha was an emptied instrument like a new bottle of salt (Num 18:19 representing the everlasting covenant of God) poured on the water. The water remained wholesome. Elisha then went up to Bethel and met some youths who jeered at him representing the people under the power of the gold calf. They despised and resisted the contemporary prophet God had raised. Elisha called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord exhibiting God's authority and majesty!

※【Overcome the world】30-33 Jesus prophesied the disciples would abandon Him. Only the Father was with Him. Elisha also had the presence of God and no one could harm him. Jesus then comforted the disciples they would have peace. There would be trouble in this world, but there would be peace in the Lord. The Lord has overcome the world. Therefore we have to pay attention to His words and always be in Him to overcome by the faith of the cross. Then miracles will follow. After Elisha had overcome the power of the gold calf, he had to go up the Mount Carmel and retreat in the Lord. He had to be close with God and then go down the mountain to have the power to deal with the sinful power of Samaria. Jesus was even more so. (Lk 21:37-38) Our spirit also have to go up the mountain to unite with God. Then we will not only have peace, but also an abundant life to overcome the world.

**Ps 95 / Rev 16:2 Main theme: To worship the idols is miserable, listen to the Lord's words humbly and rejoice to repay the kindness**

 **-Rejoice / Miserable**

(1)【Shout aloud to the Lord with rejoice】1-5 Be justified by faith and be sanctified to go to all the world to harvest in rejoice. We ought to sing praise in rejoice because of the Lord's grace.

(2)【Ought to worship the Lord with humility】6-11 From now on, we should not be hard-hearted. We ought to listen to the Lord's words by grace. We have the mark of the Lord in us and no one can trouble us to enter His rest. Those who have the mark of the beast or worship the beast will have sores and suffering day and night without rest.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen to the command and follow closely, overcome and rejoice**

Dear Lord, may You let me follow You closely till the end, to fix my eyes on your words and gain a double portion of spirit so I may accomplish my assignment and rejoice in triumph!

**2 Ki 3 / Jn 17**

**Main theme: Obey the will and be faithful to the assignment, to scratch out the sins and obey the Word, and be united to overcome the enemy**

 **-To dig the ditches / Be united**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 3:16-17 Jn 17:23

A discussion on digging the ditches and be united - on one side it concerned the kings of Israel and Judah united in flesh with the king of Edom to attack Moab. As a result they marched roundabout and were thirsty without water. As they had listened to Elisha and dug ditches around the valleyand gained the water, they overcame the enemy. On the other side it concerned Jesus interceded for the disciples before He left the earth so they might be sanctified by the truth and unite completely. Today's churches ought to dig ditches and be sanctified by the truth. Then they may be united to overcome the enemy.

**A. Unite in the flesh and fail; turn from evil and obey the Word glorify God**

Disgrace (2 Ki 3:1-12) - Glorify God (Jn 17:1-12)

1.【Unite in the flesh is disgraceful】1-12 Joram son of Ahab became king of Israel. He did not exalt God as king. He still clung to the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them. The Moabite king rebelled against the king of Israel. Joram did not examine himself because of this and how he also rebelled against God. He even sent men to arrange with the kings of Judah and Edom to attack Moab together. By the standard of this world, they united in the flesh. They made a round-about march in the desert and had no water. They fell into a dilemma.

※【Obey the Word and unite glorify God】1-11 Jesus exalted the Father as king all His life. He accomplished the assignment of the Father and glorified God. Finally He died to glorify God and the Father God also glorified Him. Not only did He gave eternity to those whom God gave Him, He also gave them the Word so they might glorify the Lord. Thus He prayed the Father would protect them to be in one. He who keeps the Word of the Lord has the living water flowing. But those who unite with the flesh and do not keep the Word will be dried up without water and fail in disgrace. Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah. He ought to have exalted God as king. But he did not set apart to be holy and united with the Israelite king in flesh. He had disgraced God.

2.【Thirsty, march roundabout and seek the prophet】11-12 The three kings were thirsty running in circle and facing hopelessness. Jehoshaphat then thought of inquiring of the Lord's prophet. So the three kings humbled to go down to see Elisha to plead for God's words to instruct them which path to take.

※【The one doomed to destruction does not seek the Lord】12 While the Lord was with the disciples, He protected and kept them except the one doomed to destruction. The three kings were thirsty and took circles, then they came to seek the prophet together. After Judah had disowned the Lord, he did not come to seek Him. He was unwilling to be contrite. He was doomed to destruction forever accomplishing the words about him on the Scriptures. (Ps 41:9; 109:8)

**B. Dig ditches around, be sanctified by the truth, united to overcome the enemy**

Dig ditches (2 Ki 3:13-27) - Be sanctified (Jn 17:13-26)

1.【Dig ditches all around】13-20 On one side Elisha rebuked king Joram in anger for he relied on the false prophets of his parents. On the other side he pleaded for God's words upon him. For the sake of Jehoshaphat, he interceded for them and was instructed by God to make the place full of ditches which was to dig ourselves deeply and pour out all the sins and to scrap out all those which belonged to the world. Then they would have the living water of the Holy Spirit to overcome the inner and outer enemies.

※【Be sanctified by the truth】13-26 Before Jesus left the world, He gave the Word of God to the disciples on one side and on the other side He interceded for them. As they did not belong to the world, the world hated them. Thus He pleaded the Father to protect from the evil one. He also prayed God to sanctify them by the truth. Elisha ordered them to make the valley full of ditches and scratch out all the evil. Then the living water would flow out. When we are sanctified by the truth, we may attack all the strong cities and beautiful places of the enemy.

2.【Obey to destroy the enemy and overcome】21-27 When the Moabites heard the three kings had come, every man, young and old stationed on the border ready to plunder. Unexpectedly the sun shone on the water like blood. God worked for the benefit of everything. He made the enemy thought the three kings had fought and slaughtered each other. As a result, the Moabites were pursued and killed. The three kings obeyed the command of the prophet and sure enough they destroyed the enemy and triumphed. The Moabite king offered his firstborn son as a sacrifice in distress. He put up a deathbed struggle but was in vain.

※【Be completely united and glorify God】21-26 The oneness which Jesus prayed for the disciples was like the Father was in the Lord and the Lord was in the Father so the world might know God loved them just as He loved the Lord, that was to let God's love for the Son be also in them. The three kings obeyed the prophet's order and overcame the enemy greatly. We ought to be completely in one in Christ, and then we may overcome Satan's evil plot to ruin the church.

**Ps 96 / Rev 16:3 Main theme: Be rebellious and blessings turn to disasters; love the Lord wholeheartedly and the earth will rejoice**

If man does evil, he will face God's wrath. The sea will turn to blood and blessings turn to disasters!

(1)【Need to preach the Lord extensively day after day】1-6 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. Only the Lord made the heavens, full of splendor and strength.

(2)【Ought to be consecrated to glorify God】7-9 We ought to sacrifice, consecrate and glorify God.

(3)【Every creation rejoices】10-13 God's children consecrate and glorify God so all peoples gain the Lord's salvation. This will make the earth and everything in it be jubilant so the land will not be cursed when the Lord comes.

**Central point of the wheels: Dig ditches all around, be sanctified and united, and sing the new song together**

Dear Lord, may You make me be contrite humbly, to dig ditches all around, be sanctified by the truth and overcome to sing the new song together!

**2 Ki 4 / Jn 18**

**Main theme: Plead and listen to the Lord will be favored; turn from the Lord and forsake Him will be destroyed**

 **-Plead the Lord / Forsake the Lord (be favored/invite disasters)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 4:5 Jn 18:37

A discussion on pleading the Lord and forsaking the Lord - on one side it concerned the wife of a man from the company of the prophets and the wife of a Shunammite called fervently on the son of God in their affliction and were favored greatly. On the other side it concerned Jesus was arrested and judged. Many forsook the Lord. Judah sold the Lord for money. Peter was mortally afraid of death and thus denied the Lord thrice. All these broke the Lord's heart! We ought to understand our poverty and meagerness. Thus we ought to call on the Lord fervently to gain the Holy Spirit so we may enjoy the abundance. We also ought to imitate Elisha and Jesus' example to deny ourselves to suffer and save men with love.

**A. Do not forsake the Lord, do not betray the Lord, come to plead the Lord and grace is unlimited**

Repay the debt (2 Ki 4:1-17) - Overcome (Jn 18:1-16)

1.【Empty the jars and be favored to repay the debt】1-7 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets pleaded to Elisha because her husband died and the creditor wanted to force her son to be a slave. The woman obeyed the order of the man of God to go to her neighbors for empty jars. Then she shut the door behind and poured oil into all the jars. Therefore we have to empty ourselves from sins and act to lead to peace. Be humble to thirst for the Word, and then we will fully gain the Holy Spirit and have an abundant life to sell the oil to repay the debt and lead a peaceful life. Today we ought to empty our instrument to trust in the Holy Spirit to overcome and triumph without obligating to obey the sinful nature and the whole law. We even have to imitate from Paul to be obligated in the gospel in one heart and lead men from the bondage of sins.

※【Pray like crushing oil will overcome to obey the will】1-7 Jesus led the disciples to Gethsemane to crush in prayer. He was full of the strength of the Holy Spirit. He did not please His own desire but He obeyed God's will firmly. He faced the seizure of the people and stood up in a relaxed manner without fear. Instead, the enemies fell back before Him on the ground. The Lord triumphed completely by the Holy Spirit. He laid down His life to repay our obligation to sin. The disciples were grieved and fell asleep. They could not be watchful with the Lord together and failed as a result. We ought to be watchful to pray by the Holy Spirit so our lives are abundant to clear the obligation for the gospel without being bound by the sinful nature and the old self and a slave to sin. (Ro 6:17-18)

2.【A holy and loving witness】8-17 Elisha was an emptied instrument. He was able to bring life and abundance to others any time. A Shunammite woman thirsted for the teachings of the prophet. She was full of love and urged him to stay for a meal. She was able to see he was a holy man of God. She discussed with her husband to make a small room and was willing to receive him. Eliaha was also full of God's love. He was concerned of the need of the woman. He promised she would bear a son next year. Sure enough the woman had a son just as the man of God had said.

※【An example of boldness and love】8-16 Our Lord is the Holy and Righteous One (Ac 3:14) Therefore He did not fear in danger! He was even full of love. He laid down Himself and took the burden by Himself to let the disciples leave. He cured the ear of Malchus who was struck by Peter. (Lk 22:51) He was willing to drink the bitter cup and break Himself to bring life and love to men. Elisha was not only a man of God. He also brought love to men. They are our examples. The Shunammite woman knew he was a holy man of God. She was zealous to receive. But the disciples all left the Lord at the critical moment. Peter was strong in the body but weak in the spirit. He went into the courtyard of the high priest and followed at a distance. As such he failed. We ought to be like the Shunammite woman to receive the Lord into our heart.

**B. Make every effort to plead and is greatly favored; do not pray watchfully and failed**

Plead fervently (2 Ki 4:18-44) - Pray watchfully (Jn 18:17-40)

1.【Make every effort to plead the Lord】18-30 The woman's child grew. His life was weak and could not stand the sun. His head ached and he cried. He died when he was carried to his mother's hands. When the distress came, the woman on one side placed the boy on the bed of the man of God by faith. At the same time she saddled the donkey and quickly went up the Mount Carmel to see the man of God. She took hold of the feet of the man of God and made every effort to plead and swore not to leave.

※【Pretend not to know the Lord】17-32 Peter had disowned the Lord successively for three times before the servant and the girl at the door. The Shunammite woman made every effort to grab the man of God in great distress. Afterwards, she got back the dead child alive. Peter was not watchful to plead when he was in crisis. Thus he failed and his spirit was like the dead child. The woman swore not to leave the man of God. But Peter swore he did not know the Lord. (Mt 26:74)

2.【The price of love that turns death to life】29-37 Gehazi took the staff of the man of God and went ahead to place it on the face of the dead child. As a result, there was no response. But when the man of God went into the room, he shut the door behind him. He laid upon the boy and paid the price with faith and prayer of love. Finally the dead child came back to life. Gehazi was alive but he really was dead. He followed the man of God in vain. He was only a dead staff.

※【The price of denying oneself grants eternal life】15-32 Jesus was bound and brought from Annas the high priest to Caiaphas. Then He was being sent before Pilate and judged. But Pilate was unable to find any basis for a charge against Him. Those who accused Him said He did evil and had to be sentenced. Elisha paid the price of love so the dead child came back to life. The Lord endured all sorts of humiliation and flogging. He was innocently condemned to die. He paid the price of His life so we might arise and gain life and an eternal life.

3.【Deny oneself to lay down and save many people】38-44 When Elisha came to Gilgal, there was a famine. He ordered the company of the prophets to cook some stew. Unexpectedly, there was poison in the wild vine representing the false ways and heresies which made people got poison. The man of God used some flour (the living Word) and put it into the pot to detoxify the poison. A man came and brought twenty loaves of barley bread with heads of new grain to Elisha. The man of God did not care for himself and gave them all so a hundred men were fed with left over. This truly fulfilled the words of God said through the man of God.

※【Deny oneself and be forsaken to save all people】33-40 Jesus was judged before Pilate. He made a good testimony. Though He was bound like a criminal, He was brave without compromising. He acknowledged He was the king of the Jews and He came to testify to the truth. Elisha witnessed for the Word and he detoxified with the Lord's words and saved the company of the prophets. Pilate again witnessed he found no basis for a charge against Jesus. But because the people shouted, 'No, not Him! Give us Barabbas!', he nailed Him on the cross. Elisha denied himself and set before others. He saved a hundred men in hunger. Jesus denied Himself and was forsaken. He saved millions of sinners! We ought to witness for the truth and to identify the falsehood and heresies. We shall not allow the wild vine to intoxicate God's children. We shall relieve those who are intoxicated with the truth.

**Ps 97 / Rv 16:4 Main theme: Obey the Word and hate sin will rejoice; be rebellious and springs of water turn to blood**

 **-Rejoice / Springs of water**

If men are rebellious without repenting, disasters will increase and springs of water will turn to blood.

(1)【God reigns and all people will see His glory】1-6 Exalt God as the King and His glory will be greatly manifested like Mary obeyed to be with child and give birth to a son so the whole land might see God's salvation.

(2)【To serve idols and other gods will be put to shame】7 Just like Saul took fame as his idol, Samson had the fondness of women as his idol and Balaam took wealth as his idol. Their result was ended in shame.

(3)【We ought to exalt the Most High God】8-9 The Lord's love is far above everything. God has prepared for those who love Him that is far beyond what men can think or plead.

(4)【Love God and hate evil】10-11 Then we will not be led astray or overtaken by sins. We will be guarded and receive the light and joy promised by God.

(5)【The righteous rejoices in the Lord】12 As he know deeply there will be good ending. Those who rebel and do evil will be added with disasters.

**Central point of the wheels: Plead and be favored, forsake the Lord invites disasters, and exalt God as the King**

Dear Lord, may You let me overcome, be abundant, make every effort to plead, love You and hate evil, save more people and rejoice by You.

**2 Ki 5 / Jn 19**

**Main theme: Take the order thoroughly, die with the Lord and become a new creation**

 **-The Lord dies / I die**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 5:14 Jn 19:36-37

A discussion on the Lord dies and I die - on one side it concerned Naaman had leprosy. As he listened to the words of Elisha, the man of God and humbled completely, he was cleansed after washing himself seven times in the Jordan and became a new creation. He experienced the great power of God's resurrection. On the other side it concerned Jesus endured the abuse, the flogging and finally was nailed on the cross for the leprosy of all mankind so that anyone who believed in Him would be cleansed and gain new life. Our old self ought to go down to Jordan and die with the Lord, be buried and re-live to become a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17) Leprosy represents wickedness and impurities. Due to jealousy and slandering, arrogance, greediness and craftiness, Miriam, Uzziah and Gehazi caught leprosy respectively. They did not dealt with their flesh and old self. Thus they were infected with leprosy and became our warning.

**A. Listen humbly, die to the old self, trust in the redemption and become a new creation**

Be cleansed (2 Ki 5:1-14) - Be redeemed (Jn 19:1-22)

1.【Come to see the prophet for healing】1-9 Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a valiant soldier. God had once let the Aramites won through him, thus he was insufferably arrogant. But he had leprosy which caused him much suffering. Naaman had a captive girl from Israel. She was full of faith and love. She was concerned about the sickness of the master. She boldly introduced him to see the Israelite prophet so he would be cured. So Naaman went there with the letter, some gold and silver and some clothing.

※【The Lord suffered to heal men】1-16 Jesus was flogged and humiliated and even put on the crown of thorns for our leprosy - the sins. He endured all the suffering and punishment so we might be cured and have peace. (Isa 52:5) Naaman thought he might be cleansed by power and gold and silver. They were all in vain. Pilate knew well Jesus was innocent. But for his interest to please the Jews, he finally crucified the Lord on the cross and made a heinous sin. Finally he washed his hands showing his innocence. (Mt 27:24) He harmed and deceived himself. He never had peace!

2.【Obey the order humbly and be cleansed】10-14 Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. The man of God sent a messenger to tell Naaman to go to wash himself seven times in the Jordan and he would be cleansed. Naaman saw that the man of God did not come out to heal him and he had not seen any significant miracle, he turned and went off in a rage. Luckily a servant spoke to him and he humbled. He obeyed the order of the man of God and went down to the Jordan seven times. Sure enough he was cleansed. (Lk 4:27)

※【Due to faith we die with the Lord】17-22 Jesus carried the cross to Golgotha. He was crucified together with two robbers. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. (1 Pe 2:24) All the rivers of Damascus could not cleanse Naaman except the Jordan representing the cross. Salvation is found in no one else. (Ac 4:12) We are also like Naaman, arrogant and raging. We see only by the eyes and look for miracles. Thus we are not cured. Only by putting down all our prejudice and own desire, to die and to live every day with the Lord by faith and return to be a child, then we will be healed and become a new creation in Christ. (Ro 6:6)

**B. Be covetous and crafty will harm oneself; love the Lord truly and be remembered**

Covetous (2 Ki 5:15-27) - Love the Lord (Jn 19:23-42)

1.【Swear to reject wealth】15-19 After Naaman was cleansed, he understood that there was no God in all the world except in Israel. He was very grateful and offered gifts to Elisha. Elisha was a holy man of God. He swore he would not accept a thing. Naaman urged him, but he still refused just like Paul forsook everything so that he might preach the gospel free of charge. (1 Co 9:12-18) Thus he moved Naaman to confess thoroughly never to offer anything to other gods. His sins were forgiven and he went home in peace.

※【Willing to forsake everything】23-30 Jesus is the Lamb who was slain. He denied Himself willingly for us. He was stripped off everything. The soldiers divided His garments and cast lots for His clothing. He forsook everything for us. Before His last breath, He entrusted His mother to the disciple whom He loved. Elisha was complete in his work because his life was complete. He forsook everything on earth so others might be favored to have peace. Jesus said on the cross, 'I am thirsty.' He thirsted for all the lost souls of the world. He wanted to save the world from idols and return to the true God just like Naaman was favored.

2.【Be covetous and crafty and caught the skin disease】20-27 Though Gehazi had followed the man of God for a long time, his nature had not changed. He was an opportunist. He was deceitful and greedy. He saw his master refused to accept the gifts, so he swore and ran after Naaman. He grabbed the chance to cheat him for silver and clothes and took them home. Then he lied to the man of God and thought he might hide from him. Thus he caught the leprosy of Naaman.

※【Love the Lord and sacrifice will be remembered】31-42 One of the soldiers pierced the side of Jesus, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water which became the fountain of cleansing to cleanse our sins. Gehazi sinned and tried to hide from it. He was not contrite. He was not forgiven and not cleansed. (Zec 13:1; Isa 12:3) The Lord obeyed the will till the end and overcame the devil and the power of death and the grave. Not a piece of His bones was broken. Gehazi did not have any strength in his character before wealth. Thus he failed and was ashamed. The testimony of John was true. Gehazi was full of lies. Joseph of Arimathea boldly asked for the body of Jesus. He buried the Lord in his new tomb. There was also Nicodemus who offered about seventy five pounds of myrrh and aloes. They grabbed the chance to love the Lord. Their offerings were remembered forever. Gehazi was selfish and blindly covetous. He fattened himself in the day of slaughter and brought everlasting curse and shame.

**Ps 98 / Rev 16:5 Main theme: The Lord's words are righteous, so obey the Word and rejoice; swerving will invite disasters**

 **-Rejoice / Disasters come**

Forever be in the Most Holy God for His judgment is righteous.

(1)【Due to the Lord's salvation we can sing a new song】1-3 God's judgment is most fair and righteous. We ought to trust in the Lord's salvation and exalt Him as holy, then God will treat us with unfailing love and faithfulness so we may sing a new song.

(2)【Lead all people to rejoice and praise the Lord】4-8 After we are favored, we may bear the Lord's heart to lead all peoples to gain His salvation. God will do great deeds for us. He will make a way through the sea so all the obstacles of the mountains turn to help and all the land will rejoice. But the rebellious ones will be avenged. The springs turn to blood.

(3)【The Lord's words judge all people】9 We ought to be careful to do the work of the Lord according to His pattern with a zealous heart to lead all peoples to obey the Lord's words. If we fully obey the Lord's words, we will experience His perfect salvation just like Naaman was completely cleansed to become a new creation. We may avoid the curse and destruction due to rebellion.

**Central point of the wheels: To die with the Lord and sing out God's righteousness and salvation**

Dear Lord, may You let me die with You and live with You to become a new creation, to sing out your righteousness and salvation.

**2 Ki 6 / Jn 20**

**Main theme: Do not be worried or afraid, seek the Lord and believe in His words for He is Almighty**

 **-Pray for / Seek**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 6:17 Jn 20:29

A discussion on praying and seeking - on one side it concerned Elisha made the axhead afloat which one of the company of the prophets fell into the water. He was discerned in the spirit and knew the enemy's plot. Thus he led those who wanted to catch him to another place. These are the result of prayer by faith. On the other side it concerned Mary first saw the resurrected Lord revealed to her and reported to the disciples because she loved the Lord wholeheartedly, a result of thirsting to seek Him. If we have the prayer by faith and the pursuit of love, we will see the glorious revelation of God.

**A. Do not be worried or afraid, know the enemy's plot, believe in the Lord's words and pray to see His glory**

Faith (2 Ki 6:1-19) - See with the eyes (Jn 20:1-18)

1.【The axhead fell into the water】1-5 The company of the prophets pleaded the man of God to go with them to the Jordan to cut down trees to build a place. The motive was good but because they had not prepared well, they had to borrow the axe temporarily. However, the axhead fell into the water, it was futile and ineffective.

※【Did not see the Lord】1-8 How Mary Magdalene loved the Lord! While it was still dark she went to the tomb and saw that the stone was removed. But she could not find the Lord. She ran to tell Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. They came successively to the tomb and only saw the strips of linen and the burial cloth both placed in the original area (this proved Jesus has risen). Their faith seemed to have entered the tomb. They only saw by their eyes but could see the Lord. They were like the axhead which was fallen into the water. Their faith was frustrated.

2.【Cry out and see the miracle】6-7 The company of the prophets saw the axhead was fallen into the water. They cried to the man of God in their hopelessness. The man of God asked clearly where did the axhead fall. He then cut a stick and threw it there representing the power of the cross so the axhead miraculously floated up and the faith of the company also came up.

※【Do not believe and run in vain】9-10 The disciples had forgotten the words of Jesus just like the axhead was fallen into the water. They did not understand from the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. They still did not have the faith. Thus they ran in vain. Therefore we ought to understand from where have we lost the faith, just like where had the axhead fallen. Only if we will cry out to the Lord and believe in His words, we will see the miracle of being alive from the dead! Faith is like the axhead which manifests God's power (Eph 1:19) How can this be borrowed? Why do you look for the living among the dead? (Lk 14:5) Therefore we ought to understand the Scripture and to accept the promise of the Lord with faith and cry to the Lord. Then we will see God's glory!

3.【Seek the Lord and be discerned in the spirit】8-13 Elisha the man of God was the chariots and horsemen of Israel. (2 Ki 13:14) He was always watchful for his nation and his people. He sought unceasingly and was able to discern the conspiracy of the enemy. He had repeatedly sent men to warn the king of Israel to guard against the enemy lest they might be in trouble. As such the king of Aram was enraged. He sent men to Dothan to capture the man of God.

※【Cry to seek the Lord and is revealed】11-14 Mary had a heart to search for the Lord. She did not see the Lord, so she would not leave the place. She cried outside the tomb. Suddenly two angels came to comfort her. She turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not realize that it was Jesus. Elisha sought continuously and was able to discern the conspiracy of the enemy. He saved the people of God. Mary eagerly desired to seek the Lord and she finally saw Him.

4.【Pray that the eyes be opened and the enemy be led away】14-19 The king of Aram sent horses and chariots and a strong force and came to besiege Dothan by night. Elisha was not at all afraid and he even comforted the servant not to be afraid. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." The man of God prayed that God would open the servant's eyes. He then saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around the man of God. As the enemy came down, the man of God prayed again so that God would struck them with blindness and brought them to Samaria. The man of God had great power in his prayer to make the enemy who wanted to catch him to turn to be teased by the man of God and became the captives.

※【See the Lord and quickly report the news】15-18 Jesus spoke to Mary but she thought He was the gardener. The Lord called her and she turned toward Him and her spiritual eyes were opened. Then she knew the risen Lord. She then obeyed to tell the disciples quickly and witnessed the Lord had risen. So the disciples were also awoke and no longer fainted.

**B. Blessed are those who have not seen and believe; woe to those who are rebellious and assailed**

Woe (2 Ki 6:20-33) - Blessed (Jn 20:19-31)

1.【Obey to set a feast for the enemy】20-23The king of Israel obeyed the order of the man of God not to kill the enemy but to set a feast for them and heap burning coals on their heads. (Pro 25:21-22) So they were sent back after they had eaten and drunk. They stopped raiding Israel's territory.

※【Receive the Holy Spirit and set a feast】19-23 The disciples locked their doors for fear of the Jews. Jesus suddenly stood among them and greeted them. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw Jesus. The Lord breathed on them and gave them the living Holy Spirit. The man of God ordered the king of Israel to set a feast for the enemy. Jesus sent the disciples out to set the feast of life and the feast of salvation. We ought to imitate Elisha to gain the double portion of the Spirit to overcome everything and be sent to set the feast of abundance.

2.【Woe to those who are rebellious and assailed】24-33 Some time later, the army of Aram besieged Samaria and created a big famine. There were even some women who ate their own sons. She cried out to the king for help but was in vain. The king of Israel sinned heinously. He tore his robes but he did not tore his heart. Not only did he not repent, instead he hated the prophet. He sent men to kill Elisha. His presumptuousness and rebellion caused calamity.

※【Blessed are those who have not seen and believe】24-31 Unless Thomas had seen the nail marks in the Lord's hands and put his hand into His side, he was unable to believe. A week later Jesus appeared again and told Thomas to reach out his hand to touch and put into His side. As such he was ashamed and excited. But the Lord said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The king of Israel was rebellious and did not believe. His spirit fainted. Woe to him, he was unwilling to repent and even wanted to kill the man of God. Jesus performed many miracles so that men might believe He was Christ and the Son of God. Due to His name men might gain life. But Joram was rebellious and did not believe. He was presumptuous and assailed. As a result he was killed. (2 Ki 9:21-26)

**Ps 99 / Rev 16:6 Main theme: We ought to obey the Lord's words completely lest we overlook and be avenged**

 **-The Lord's words / The retribution**

Those who jeopardize others (especially shedding the blood of the saints and prophets) will be punished severely. We ought to consider the Lord's mind to save all people.

(1)【All people ought to tremble at the Lord's words】1-3 At the last day the Lord's words will judge us. We ought to exalt the Lord as great, to love Him and listen to His words above everything.

(2)【We ought to be humble to exalt God】4-5 We ought to pursue the Most just and right and humble to prostrate before God's feet and exalt His name as holy.

(3)【Be faithful to intercede and keep God's statutes】6-9 Moses, Aaron and Samuel were faithful intercessors. They obeyed God's Word and became the spokesmen of God's will. For this, God granted to forgive their sins but they were punished for their misdeeds.. Therefore, we ought to exalt God and keep His Word in trembling and to make every effort to pursue to let our spirit go up the mountain top to dwell, work and walk with Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Exalt God as holy, plead by faith and preach by faith**

Dear Lord, may You grant me the prayer and pursuit of faith, to exalt You as holy and preach the resurrected Christ all my life!

**2 Ki 7 / Jn 21**

**Main theme: Do not look at anything, listen and believe in the Lord's words to love the Lord and feed the lambs**

 **-Report the news / Feed the lambs (listen and believe/follow)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 7:2 Jn 21:16-18

A discussion on reporting the news and feeding the lambs - on one side it concerned Elisha the man of God prophesied that the great famine would turn to great abundance. It was fulfilled on the next day. There were four lepers who were in desperation and favored. So they reported the news. On the other side it concerned Peter and six other disciples were weak in faith and went back to their vocation to fish. However, that night they caught nothing. In the morning Jesus revealed to them with the love of burning coals and also made them abundant instantly. Peter and the four lepers were favored and repaid God's love. This teaches us we ought to listen and believe in the Lord's words and not by sight. Then we will see God's glory. God's words are forever faithful!

**A. Do not look at the environment, listen and believe in the Lord's words and enjoy His abundance**

God works (2 Ki 7:1-8) - The Lord reveals (Jn 21:1-10)

1.【Listen and believe in the Lord's words and enjoy abundance】1-8 Elisha was ordered to prophesy that the great famine in Samaria would turn to abundance in a night's time. They had to listen to the word of the Lord. But the officer on whose arm the king was leaning was presumptuous and did not believe. He arbitrarily thought "even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen". But the man of God firmly said, "You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!" (2 Co 5:7; Heb 11:6)

※【Go back to fish and catch nothing】1-10 After Jesus had risen, seven disciples lived by sight and the environment. So Peter took the lead to fish again. They had lost the faith and the Word had not taken root just like the officer was filled with a sinful, unbelieving heart. As a result, they caught nothing that night. It was in vain to struggle by themselves. They had nothing and could not see the blessing of God.

2.【God opens the floodgates of the heavens】1-8 There were four men with leprosy facing hunger and hopelessness. But they were unwilling to sit there and wait for death. They risked themselves to surrender to the Arameans. When they arrived at the camp, they did not see anyone. They entered the tent and ate and drank and hid the plunder. God made the Aramean troops heard the sound of chariots and horses mistakenly. So they left the tents and the camp and fled for their life. God had truly opened the floodgates of the heavens and turned to abundance instantly.

※【The Lord's love is revealed】1-10 Early in the morning while the seven disciples were still discouraged and hopeless, the loving Savior stood on the shore. He appeared personally. Jesus did not rebuke them and only ordered them to throw the net on the right side (the will of the Lord) of the boat and they would gain it. They obeyed to throw the net and were unable to haul the net in. When Peter knew it was Jesus, he was so ashamed and jumped into the water. They pulled the net to the shore. The Lord had already prepared the breakfast for them. The four lepers experienced the concern of God's love. The seven disciples experienced the appearance of God's love. It came like burning coals and they enjoyed the accidental abundance.

**B. Be grateful and report the news, take care of the Lord's sheep, and deny yourself to follow the Lord**

Report the news (2 Ki 7:9-20) - Repay the kindness (Jn 21:11-25)

1.【Give thanks and report the news】9-11 The four lepers enjoyed the abundance. They knew the grace and were grateful. How could they enjoy God's grace alone! They said to each other that if they did not report the news, punishment would overtake them if they waited until daylight. So they went to report the good news to the royal palace.

※【Feed the Lord's lambs】11-17 This catch had a total of one hundred fifty three big fish. Even with so many the net was not torn so that they might believe the Lord's words from then on and follow the Lord wholeheartedly to gain men like fish. After they had their breakfast, the Lord asked Peter for three times did he truly love Him more than these. The Lord's love of the burning coal warmed his heart so he was excited by His love. He was willing to love Him above everything. He promised to feed His lambs. The four lepers were grateful and reported the news. They also repaid the Lord's grace and great love. They knew deeply they would be punished if they did not report it. Woe to us if we do not preach the gospel. (1Co 9:16)

2.【Disbelieved and was trampled to death】12-20 When the king of Israel heard the report, he could not believe it. He only analyzed it by his mind and thought the Arameans had left the camp to hide so as to harm them. He sent men to find out the result and it was just as what the reporters said, so all the people went out to plunder the camp of the Arameans. In a night's time the great famine turned to a great abundance. The prophecy of the man of God was fulfilled. The king sent his officer to take in charge of the gate. As a result he was trampled to death by the people just as the man of God had said. He would see it with his own eyes, but he would not eat any of it. How awesome is God's word!

※【Believe and die for the Lord】18-25 Jesus prophesied Peter would glorify God by death when he was old. He wanted him to follow the Lord no matter how others were. All he needed was to follow till the end. On one side was how glorious to die for the Lord. On the other side was how shameful to be trampled to death. The prophecy of the man of God and Jesus would be fulfilled. The great revival which the Lord promised would come suddenly. We ought to believe in the Lord's words and follow Him till the end to welcome the revival ahead. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isa 29:17; 31:15) With God's mouth He has promised and with His hand He will fulfill.

**Ps 100 / Rev 16:7 Main theme: The Lord's words are believable, be eager to serve the Lord and deny yourself to follow closely**

 **-Eager to deny / The Lord's words**

Those who suffered for the Lord will in due time see God's true and just judgment.

(1)【We ought to serve the Lord with gladness】1-2 Though it is a bitter path to follow the Lord to walk the path of the cross, a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies will produce many seeds. We will be greatly blessed and all peoples will be blessed because of you.

(2)【We ought to know】3 We are created by the Lord and for Him, (Col 1:16) so we ought to deny ourselves and obey the will.

(3)【We ought to give thanks and praise】4 We ought to bear a grateful heart to enter the narrow gate which leads to eternity. Better is one day in God's courts than a thousand elsewhere.

(4)【Blessed are those who serve the Lord with gladness】5 True and just are God's judgments. How great is God's love and faithfulness towards those who deny themselves to carry the cross and follow to serve Him. To suffer for the Lord will in turn gain an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. By that time we will see that God has prepared for those who love Him surpasses what we plead and think.

**Central point of the wheels: Repay the Lord's kindness, follow the Lord and serve Him**

Dear Lord, may You make me listen and believe in your words without turning back, to understand and repay your kindness, to love You above everything and feed your sheep!

**2 Ki 8 / Ac 1**

**Main theme:** **Not by looking into the sky, do not act presumptuously, grab the promise to ask in one heart**

 **-Beg for the property / Ask for the Holy Spirit**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 8:10 Ac 1:8

A discussion on begging for the property and asking for the Holy Spirit - on one side it concerned the Shunammite woman came back from Philistia after seven years' famine. By faith she begged the king to restore her house and land and was granted. On the other side it concerned that before Jesus was ascended to heaven, He encouraged the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit as promised by the Father. This teaches we ought to grab the promise to ask for the Holy Spirit, for the property and preach the gospel to the ends of the world.

**A. Grab the promise, beg for the property and ask for the Holy Spirit**

Beg for the property (2 Ki 8:1-14) - Ask for the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:1-12)

1.【Beg the king for property】1-6 The Shunammite woman obeyed Elisha's order and brought her whole family to Philistia to avoid the seven years of famine. After the seven years ended, the woman came back and begged the king by faith for the return of her house and land. Incidentally Gehazi was telling the king the great things Elisha had done and how he had restored the son of the Shunammite woman to life. So the king ordered to give her back all the property, including all the income from her land for the seven years.

※【Grab the promise to ask for the Holy Spirit】1-5 The disciples remembered firmly all the teachings of Jesus and grabbed the promise before He ascended to await for the Holy Spirit promised by the Father just like the Shunammite woman came to the king for her property. The Lord promised them that in a few days they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The king also granted the woman's plea to restore her property. The Holy Spirit that God promised is the most precious property. We should take all the lost souls of the land as the property we ought to ask. The Shunammite woman had loved the man of God without in vain. She was favored in distress. The disciples left everything behind to follow the Lord and were not in vain. They were given the most precious promise - the Holy Spirit.

2.【Obey God's will to work】7-10 Elisha obeyed God's will and came to Damascus in order to accomplish the mission of anointing Hazael as the king of Aram. (1 Ki 19:15) Ben-Hadad the king of Aram was ill, so he sent Hazael to send a gift to Elisha and to ask if his sickness might be healed. The man of God did not show any expression. He did not take any bribery. He only proclaimed God's will and told him Ben-Hadad would be healed, but he would die.

※【According to God's will and know what to ask for】6-8 The disciples thought it was the time for Jesus to restore the kingdom of Israel. Jesus replied them, "It is not for you to know the dates the Father has set by His own authority." We ought to follow the Lord's will to plead for the coming of the Holy Spirit and we will receive the power to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth, so the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, and the kingdom will come. (Ro 11:25-26; Mt 24:14) Both the prophecy of Elisha and Jesus would be fulfilled. The desire of Ben-Hadad was a wishful thought. The disciples also had not plead according to God's will. The Holy Spirit that the Lord promised far exceeded all the wealth of the earth.

3.【Fix your eyes and know the enemy's evil thoroughly】11-14 The man of God was able to discern the evil plot of the devil. He gazed at Hazael until he felt ashamed and the man of God wept. He saw that this man would persecute God's people and set fire to their fortified places. He would kill their young men, dash the little children to the ground and even rip open the pregnant women. God instructed Elisha he would be the king of Aram. Hazael returned to Ben-Hadad and only told him he would be healed.

※【Look intently up into the sky negatively】9-12 After Jesus had finished His last words, He was taken up. The disciples ought to have fixed their eyes on the mission of preaching the gospel. But they looked intently up into the sky negatively. Elisha was able to gaze and discern the brutal nature of Hazael the great sinner through his appearance. He mourned at the infliction of the people of God would meet. Two angels appeared to comfort the disciples how the Lord ascended, He would come again in the same manner. How could they look intently up into the sky? The disciples returned to Jerusalem and prayed in one heart. They focused on the evil plot of the wicked to harm God's children.

**B. Plead fervently together, destroy the enemy's plot, woe for doing evil and betraying the Lord**

Pray together (2 Ki 8:15-29) - do evil (Ac 1:13-26)

1.【Do not know the enemy's plot】15 Hazael the officer of the king of Aram went back to conspire to seize the throne. He killed Ben-Hadad. The king of Israel did evil and forsook God. He did not understand the evil plan of the enemy. They were repeatedly afflicted by the king of Aram till the end. (2 Ki 10:32; 12:17-18)

※【Fix at the target in one heart】13-15 The disciples returned to Jerusalem and went up the upper room to pray in one heart fervently to ruin all the evil plot of Satan just like Elisha focused on the anti-God power of Hazael. Then they might see the true revival of the Holy Spirit to turn from the affliction of the evil.

2.【Imitate the wicked and cannot escape from the sin】16-29 Jehoram became the king of Judah. He married the daughter of Jezebel and imitated the evil path of the house of Ahab. He did evil and rebelled against God. He disregarded the warning letter of Elijah the prophet. As such God sent calamities and he was inflicted with a disease of the bowels till death. His son Ahaziah reigned but he also imitated the house of Ahab to do evil. They were unable to escape from the punishment. (2 Ch 21:8-15; 2 Ki 9:21-28)

※【Woe for betraying the Lord】15-26 Peter pointed out that Judah was in trouble for betraying Jesus just like Jehoram rebelled against God. The prophecy of the Scripture was fulfilled. There he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Someone had shared his ministry. (Mt 26:24; Ac 1:16-25) Jehoram was wayward and evil. He had the same ending. His bowels came out and died. In the genealogy of Jesus, his three successive generations were missing. They lost the grace of God and become our warning.

**Ps 101 / Rev 16:8 Main theme: Put the wicked to silence every morning, make every effort to be blameless lest we will be scorched by the sun**

 **-Be loved / Be scorched**

Due to men's wickedness, the sun will scorch them in due time.

(1)【Be blameless before God】1-4 We ought to bear a blameless heart to walk a blameless life with wisdom to be far from vile things and perverseness.

(2)【Help others to be blameless】5-7 We ought to prevent men from slander and arrogance, deception and lies. Let men walk honestly in all the Lord's instructions and a blameless path.

(3)【Put the wicked to silence every morning】8 Be watchful over yourselves and all the flock every morning and put to silence all the evil. Then we will not provoke God to anger and be scorched with fire. Instead we may sing of God's unfailing love.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove evil, grab the promise, ask according to the will and be free from disasters**

Dear Lord, may You remove all the evil from my heart, grab the promise to ask for the Holy Spirit, obey your will and be your witness.

**2 Ki 9 /Ac 2**

**Main theme: Anointed by the Spirit, filled with power, defeat crime ferociously and save all people**

 **-Be anointed / Preach the Word**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 9:3 Ac 2:1-4

A discussion on being anointed and preaching the Word - on one side it concerned Jehu was anointed as King of Israel. He was filled with authority and annihilated the house of Ahab and the evil power of Jezebel. On the other side it concerned the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and received power to defeat crime ferociously. They preached the Word and saved men to turn from the crooked evil generation.

**A. Be anointed by the Spirit, defeat the evil and save all people**

Be entrusted (2 Ki 9:1-13) - Preach the Word (Ac 2:1-18)

1.【Be anointed to be the king to destroy evil】1-13 Elisha the man of God summoned a man from the company of the prophets to anoint Jehu as king of Israel with the truth and be clothed with humility (Eph 5:14; 1 Pe 5:5) so as to destroy the house of Ahab completely like the houses of Jeroboam and Baasha in order to redress the injustice of the innocent blood shed by Jezebel on God's servants and prophets. Dogs would devour Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel and no one would bury her. Thus the army officers blew the trumpet and rejoiced as Jehu became the king.

※【Filled with the Holy Spirit to save men】1-13 The disciples gathered at the upper room and grabbed the Lord's promise and prayed in one heart. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came like a violent wind and tongues of fire rested on them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues of the wonders of God. Jehu was anointed to destroy the evil power of the house of Ahab completely manifesting the power and majesty of God. The violent sound of the coming of the Holy Spirit attracted many Jews who came to celebrate the feast from different countries and area. They personally saw the glory of God so as to save them from the power of darkness and to accept Jesus as the Christ set by God.

2.【Be faithful to the assignment without slackening】1-13 The young prophet obeyed Elisha's order and ran immediately after anointing Jehu without delay. Under the power of Jezebel, he was careful in trembling to be faithful to his assignment without delay and was guarded by God.

※【Preach the prophecy without cringing】14-18 Peter stood up with the Eleven. He raised his voice and proclaimed the prophecy of Joel the prophet which had fulfilled before the eyes of the people. He testified they were not drunk but was filled by the Holy Spirit. The disciples proclaimed the prophecy and were not cringing. The young prophet was careful to obey without delay. They all overcame the evil power of darkness and was full of courage.

**B. The Holy Spirit pours and be filled with authority, defeat crime ferociously and proclaim Christ**

Defeat crime (2 Ki 9:14-37) - Save men (Ac 2:19-47)

1.【Destroy evil ferociously】14-29 After Jehu became the king, he quickly rode to Jezreel because Joram was resting there. He forsook God and followed the adultery and sorcery of Jezebel. He had no peace. Ahaziah king of Judah had just gone down to see him. So the two kings withstood the anointed Jehu together. Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram. He immediately slumped down and died. He was being thrown on the field that belonged to Naboth fulfilling the prophecy of Elijah the prophet. (1 Ki 21:19) Ahaziah was friendly with the house of Ahab. He was also wounded. He escaped to Megiddo and died there. Jehu attacked evil fiercely and relentlessly. The two kings received their deserved retribution.

※【Demolish and take captive the hearts of men】19-36 Peter and the Eleven preached with great power like pieces of arrow. They rebuked the Jews severely on their heinous sin of crucifying Jesus on the cross. However, God made Christ risen and poured down the promised Holy Spirit fulfilling the words on the Scripture. The disciples testified to this. Jehu attacked the evil of the house of Ahab severely and he was full of power. Only by destroying the adultery and sorcery of Jezebel, then the house of Israel would have peace. If the Jews would cry out to the Lord's name and confess and repent to accept the risen Lord, they will have peace.

2.【Avenged and is broken to pieces】30-37 The great prostitute Jezebel performed many sorceries and had heinous sins. When she heard Jehu was coming, she was not ashamed and continued to paint her eyes and arrange her hair. She put up her last-ditch struggle. She did not repent. While she was looking out of the window, it was her time of destruction. A few eunuchs obeyed to throw her down. The cursed woman was crushed and her blood spattered everywhere fulfilling the words of Elijah that the dogs would devour her flesh. The extremely evil Babylon would also fall like this just like a large millstone was thrown into the sea and never to be found again. (Rev 18:21)

※【Repent and be favored to be saved】37-47 The disciples preached with great power and the people were cut to the heart. There were about three thousand people repented and baptized. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The few eunuchs were courageous to thrust Jezebel the prostitute down so she received her deserved retribution. It also fulfilled the prophecy of Elijah the prophet that the injustice of the innocent blood of God's servants and prophets would be avenged on Jezebel. Peter pleaded with them to save themselves from the corrupt generation which was the evil power represented by Jezebel. Then they might set apart to be holy to keep the disciples' teaching persistently to praise and serve God in one heart everyday. The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Ps 102 / Rev 16:9 Main theme: Plead watchfully and revive greatly; cursed and disasters were intensified**

 **-Pray humbly / Curse**

Men face great suffering but are not willing to repent. Instead they curse God and invite destruction. In fact, suffering is under the hands of God. If we be contrite and return to Him, there is a way.

(1)【Cry out fervently in distress】1-11 Know that it is the Lord who has taken me up and thrown me aside. Everything is monitored in the hands of God.

(2)【By faith know that the Lord will have compassion on Zion】12-16 The Lord will rebuild Zion. All the nations will fear the only true God and there will be great revival.

(3)【The Lord will hear the plea of the afflicted】17-21 Let this be written for a future generation so men will proclaim to all the earth.

(4)【Witness the Lord will remain without change】22-28 We believe deeply that by crying to the Lord, we will save not only his servants, even their descendants will be established before the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Be anointed to defeat crime, repent and be favored, pray fervently and revive**

Dear Lord, may You crush the evil power inside me, be fully anointed by the Spirit so I will extol and praise, and declare your deeds!

**2 Ki 10 / Ac 3**

**Main theme: Work courageously, turn from evil completely, and obey the Word with all your heart**

 **-Defeat crime / Save men**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 10:31 Ac 3:6-7

A discussion on defeating crime and saving men - on one side it concerned Jehu destroyed the house of Ahab completely and the idols of Baal. But he did not obey the Word with all his heart. He still could not depart from the sin of worshiping the gold calf and was thus attacked by his enemy and lost a big piece of his territory. On the other side it concerned Peter and John kept the Lord's Word firmly and exalted His name. They made the lame walk and witnessed the Word boldly. They led many to repent and turn from evil to be saved and blessed.

**A. Destroy the sinful power completely, the lame can walk and praise to enter the temple court**

Destroy evil (2 Ki 10:1-14) - Heal (Ac 3:1-10)

1.【Defeat crime completely】1-11 Now there were still seventy sons of the house of Ahab and the remaining officers and rulers who were on their last legs. They had to be completely destroyed to fulfill the words of Elijah the prophet on the total destruction of the house of Ahab. Jehu was full of power and he wrote to the officials of Jezreel. Thus they trembled and obeyed to send the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab to Jehu. In this way, Jehu destroyed the whole house of Ahab according to God's order and the people submitted to him.

※【The lame can walk】1-8 Now there was a crippled from birth. Every day he was carried to the temple gate to beg from those going into the temple courts. But no one ever brought him to the temple to worship God. The house of Ahab relied on chariots, sorcery and idols and was like the crippled that could not walk. But Peter and John did not relied on the power of silver or gold. They brought the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus to him. They told him to get up by the name of Jesus. He went walking and jumping, and praising God. Jehu used the power of God and completely destroyed the house of Ahab, then the Israelites might get up to worship God. The might of the Holy Spirit impacted the holy temple and all the hypocritical and detestable power of the house of Ahab so not a word of God was empty. They were all fulfilled.

2.【Went down and was killed】12-14 Forty two brothers of Ahaziah the king of Judah had in mind of affection and treated the enemy as their friend. They had no understanding of the time and went down to greet the families of the king and of the queen mother. Thus they were caught alive and killed by Jehu.

※【Believed and was saved】1-12 All the people saw him walking and praising God and recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate. Now he had believed and was favored with great witness. They were filled with wonder and amazement. The brothers of Ahaziah were unable to identify their enemy or friend. They did not know the right from wrong. They did not consider the mind of God just like a crippled and died of unnatural death. They themselves were to be blamed.

**B. Exalt the Lord's name, witness the Word boldly and lead men to see the Lord**

Use crafty plans (2 Ki 10:15-36) - By the Holy Spirit (Ac 3:11-26)

1.【Let others look at me】15-17 Jehu had great effect on his work. He became arrogant and boastful. He began to exposed his old self to let everyone see how zealous he was for God. He did not humble to give glory to God.

※【Exalt the Lord's name】11-12 When everyone was astonished about the crippled from birth, Peter immediately exalted Christ and gave glory to God. "...... Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" But Jehu exalted himself and let others see 'Me'. Peter humbled to obeyed the Word. He hid himself and exalted the Lord's name. He truly rode on the chariot and harnessed the living wheel.

2.【Use crafty plans to destroy the Baals completely】18-28 Jehu used deception to kill all the ministers of Baal. He depended on man's methods and measure. He summoned the prophets of Baal and all those who worshiped Baal and told them to put on their robes. After they had offered, he ordered to kill all of them. But he did not set apart to be holy. He entered the temple of Baal and offered sacrifice to Baal and defiled himself. thereafter he burned the sacred stones in the temple and tore down the temple. He destroyed Baal completely.

※【Preach the way of repentance by the Holy Spirit】13-19 Peter trusted in the Holy Spirit completely. He witnessed the Word boldly and testified God had glorified the Holy and Righteous One, Jesus whom they had disowned. But God had raised Him from the dead. "We are witnesses of this." This fulfilled what the prophets had said. So he exhorted them to repent and turn to God, that times of refreshing might come. After the Israelites had demolished all the idols of Baal, and then the times of refreshing would come. Jehu did by the flesh and deception to destroy the Baal worshipers. But he did not set apart to be holy and did not have any witness.

3.【Woe for not obeying the Word with all his heart】29-36 Though Jehu had destroyed the house of Ahab and Baal, he did not obey the Word wholeheartedly. He did not turn from worshiping the gold calf and caused the Israelites in sins deeply. Thus God caused Hazael the king of Aram to be their trouble and reduced the size of Israel. They lost the whole land of Gilead in east Jordan.

※【Turn back and depart from evil will be blessed】20-26 God promised when everything is restored, Christ will come again to be their king so they may inherit the covenant made between God and their forefathers which were the blessings given to Abraham. Therefore we ought to listen to the One whom Moses and the prophets prophesied to turn back from the wicked ways. Then we may gain the blessings and be the blessed descendants of Abraham. Peter obeyed the Word and he led men to turn from evil to obey the Word. Jehu did not obey the Word wholeheartedly. He did not turn back from the wicked way. As a result he caught the people in sins and lost a big piece of land. He even lost the blessings promised by God. Therefore we ought to turn from our wicked ways to obey the Word wholeheartedly to welcome the Lord's coming!

**Ps 103 / Rev 16:10 Main theme: Go against the Lord and the pain is unbearable; listen to the Lord's words and His loving grace is incomparable**

 **-Immense grace / Immense pain**

All those who are controlled by the beast or honor the beast as king will be in darkness and pain. We ought to put our flesh to death by the Holy Spirit and overcome the persecution and temptation of the anti-Christ, the false prophets and the great prostitute, so we may exalt the Lord as King and be favored with His great love to glorify God and benefit men!

(1)【My soul will praise the great love of God】1-5 Forget not all His benefits.

(2)【God's righteousness and unfailing love】6-18 Only if we will confess our sins and repent, God is compassionate and gracious so we may turn from sin and obey the Word for God's great love is with those who fear Him.

(3)【Lead all people to praise God】19-22 All the angels and heavenly hosts, God's servants and all His works will praise God. Praise the Lord, O my soul and be grateful to repay His kindness!

**Central point of the wheels: Exalt the Lord's name, obey the Word with all your heart, and give thanks and praises**

Dear Lord, may You make me turn from evil completely and honor your Word, exalt your name, inherit the promised blessings and preach your unfailing love!

**2 Ki 11 / Ac 4**

**Main theme: Be brave to do good, be bold to preach and be in one heart for the Lord**

 **-Destroy the enemy / Overcome the enemy**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 11:2-3 Ac 4:10-12

A discussion on destroying the enemy and overcoming the enemy - on one side it concerned the couple of Jehoiada the priest strengthened themselves to forge courageously. They were faithful to their duty. They loved God and loved the people. While the royal family was near annihilation, they came forward to save Joash the young prince so he might reign and destroyed the plan of Athaliah to exterminate the royal family. On the other side it concerned the apostles were brave to witness the Word despite persecution without being intimidated by the power of the Sanhedrin. They obeyed the will of God faithfully. We ought to be brave and watchful for the truth and God's will to destroy and overcome the enemies.

**A. Contend by the Spirit, be brave to do good, obey the will and overcome the enemy**

A spiritual war (2 Ki 11:1-12) - Weapon (Ac 4:1-22)

1.【Destroy the enemy's plot and hide in the Lord】1-3 Athaliah was very ambitious. After Ahab died she grabbed the chance to seize the throne and exterminated all the royal family. She attempted to ruin the kingdom of David. She represented the power of Satan who wanted to destroy the descendants of David and ruin the genealogy of Jesus. Jehosheba the wife of Jehoiada was watchful in the spirit. She was able to discern the plot of the enemy. She courageously stole Joash from among the royal princes and hid him in the temple. So he was guarded.

※【Was seized but hid in the Lord】1-4 By that time there were many who heard and believed and the number of men grew to about five thousand. The Holy Spirit worked drastically, but the devil was even rampant. The people of the Sanhedrin were greatly disturbed and caught the apostles while they were proclaiming the Word. Both Athaliah and the Sanhedrin represented the anti-God power of Satan. They wishfully thought to ruin the plan of God to seize power. But God miraculously guarded the little prince to hide him in the temple. Though Peter and John were seized and put in jail, they hid deeply in the Lord and rested the whole night. Jehosheba risked her life to save the prince and the apostles risked their life to obey the will and preach the Word and thus they saw God's will had triumphed.

2.【Carry weapons to protect the king】4-12 Jehoiada strengthened himself and gathered the guards to the temple to make a covenant before God to protect the prince. He ordered that one third of them had to guard the palace to prevent any idlers. Two third of them were to station around the king at the temple to protect him. Each man held the weapons of David in his hand courageously and watchfully. So all the people rejoiced and anointed Joash as king of Judah.

※【Proclaim Christ by the Holy Spirit】5-22 The apostles were judged before the Sanhedrin. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and witnessed to the rulers of the people boldly and wisely with God's Word as the weapon of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 6:17) Jehoaida was also very brave without fear of the power of the enemy to guard against the enemy. Peter exalted the name of Christ whom they had crucified on the cross, but God raised Him from the dead and so that man was healed. Salvation is found in no one else and it is only by His name we may be saved. The apostles took the Lord's name and His Word as their weapon so the enemy was unable to refute. The guards held the weapons of David and protected God's anointed bravely. All the people ascribed the glory to God. After further threats they let them go.

**B. Be bold to speak the word of God, pray together and overcome the enemy, destroy the idols**

Overcome (2 Ki 11:13-21) - Praise (Ac 4:23-37)

1.【Destroy the enemy together and God's will overcomes】13-16 The wicked woman Athaliah heard the rejoice for the new king and fearfully ran into the temple. Her last day was near. She tore her robes and yelled. Under the order of Jehoiada the soldiers destroyed the enemy together. They drove her out of the temple and killed her. Athaliah's plot was corrupted in an instant and God's will triumphed.

※【Pray fervently together and the enemy's plot is ruined】23-31 The apostles were released and went back to the church to report God's deeds. The people praised and prayed to God in one heart. The enemy conspired against the holy servant Jesus to accomplish God's will. They prayed fervently to God so they might preach boldly and heal the sick. The place where they were praying was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah, the Lord's will triumphed completely! The whole army destroyed the enemy in one heart and they had a great victory exhibiting the authority of the Holy Spirit.

2.【Destroy the idols and serve the Lord watchfully】17-21 Jehoiada the priest made a covenant between the Lord and the king and people. They tore down the temple of Baal and killed the priest of Baal. Jehoiada posted guards at the temple to guard against the enemy watchfully to bring the king from the temple to the palace. The king then took his place and all the people rejoiced. The whole city was quiet.

※【Offer everything and serve the Lord in one heart】32-37 The apostles were full of power to testify to the resurrection of Jesus and much grace was upon them all. Jehoiada was also full of power. He tore down the temple of Baal and made Joash sat on the throne. The church removed all selfishness and led a life of loving one another in complete sacrifice and one in heart and mind. They shared everything they had and there was no needy persons among them. Those who owned lands or houses sold them and offered their money. Among them was Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement). On one side was serving the Lord in one heart. On the other side was serving the Lord with alertness and became children who kept the covenant and were blessed.

**Ps 104 / Rev 16:11 Main theme: God is the greatest, destroy evil severely and exalt the Lord forever**

 **-Praise / Curse**

When the fools are in distress, they curse God instead of repenting for their wickedness. But the wise will praise the very great God all their lives.

(1)【Praise the very great God】1-32 How splendid and great is He! He stretches out the heavens. He turns nothing to something and lays the beams of His upper chambers on their waters. His Spirit is like the wind and the fire. How quick and thorough are His deeds! At His rebuke the waters fled. He sets a boundary and the waters cannot cross. When He bestows His grace, the earth is satisfied. Everything is created with wisdom by God. When He sends the Spirit, we are created and renewed. May the Lord delight in us so we may praise and glorify Him. If we are rebellious and thought of creating a tower of Babel on earth, once God sees it, it will be scattered and turn to nothing.

(2)【Sing to the Almighty God all my life】33-34 Meditate on God's words day and night and I will rejoice in the Lord. (Ps 16:7-11)

(3)【Lead all people to praise God】35 May all the people repent and come to extol the one I praise and the only Almighty true God!

**Central points of the wheels: Obey the will and overcome the enemy, give thanks and praise**

Dear Lord, may You make me obey your will firmly to overcome Satan's plot, to preach the Word boldly and praise your name!

**2 Ki 12 / Ac 5**

**Main theme:** **Do good before man will fall; deny yourself to listen to the Lord is unbeatable**

 **-Repair the temple / Preach the Word (leave a gap/block the gap)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 12:2-3 Ac 5:15-16

A discussion on repairing the temple and preaching the Word - on one side it concerned that after Joash became the king, he ordered to repair whatever damage was found in the temple. But no one responded. Thereafter, under the leadership of Jehoiada, the temple was repaired. On the other side it concerned Peter the apostle was discerned in the spirit. He made those who lied to the Holy Spirit fell immediately. He blocked the gap for the church. The apostles trusted in God wholeheartedly in their suffering and denied themselves to preach the Word so the enemies could not harm them. Joash had a gap in his heart. He was ungrateful and killed the son of Jehoiada. He himself was also assassinated - a righteous retribution of God.

**A. Do not be self-deceptive, do not deceive God, block the gap and see God's glory**

Self-deceptive (2 Ki 12:1-8) - Deceive God (Ac 5:1-16)

1.【Be self-deceptive and live before men】1-3Joash had escaped from death and he did not deserve to be favored. When he was seven year old he was assisted to be the king. But he did not truly obey God's Word. He lived before men. When Jehoiada was on earth, he did what was right in the eyes of God. But he did not remove the high places and he allowed the people to sacrifice and burn incense anywhere they liked. This violated God's order. (Deu 12:13-14)

※【Deceive God with hypocritical offering】1-2 During the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and all hypocrisy and deception was impacted and completely disclosed. The couple of Ananias was greedy and deceptive. They sold a piece of their property and kept back part of the money for themselves and brought the rest at the apostles' feet hypocritically. They offered falsely and tried to please men. They were self-deceiving and deceived God. Joash also lived before men and was hypocritical and self-deceiving.

2.【Repair whatever is damaged in the temple】4-8 When Joash reigned, he ordered the priests to repair the temple because the sons of Athaliah had demolished God's temple. But by the twenty-third year of Joash, the priests still had not repaired the temple. (2 Ch 24:7)

※【Discerned in the spirit and block the gap】3-16 Peter was discerned in the spirit. He had a sharp eye and rebuked the hypocrisy of Ananias who dared to deceive the Holy Spirit. He fell down and died immediately. Three hours later his wife came in and tested the Spirit of the Lord in one heart. She also fell down before Peter. When Joash reigned he did not write the laws in his heart and read it all the days of his life. He had a gap in his heart. He did not have the spiritual power and thus no one obeyed to repair the temple. The Lord worked wonders through the apostles and more and more believers were added to their number. Peter was totally submerged in the Holy Spirit and full of power. Even his shadow was able to cure the sick. He breached the gap for the church. The whole church and those who heard this trembled. We ought first to breach the gap in the spirit and then we will see the work of the Holy Spirit and God's glory!

**B. Willing to offer, deny oneself to preach the Word and the doors of the jail is opened**

Was assassinated (2 Ki 12:9-21) - Unbeatable (Ac 5:17-42)

1.【Willing to offer and repair the temple】9-16 Jehoiada the chief priest rose to repair the temple. He ordered that the money was to be put into the chest and be given to the carpenters and masons to purchase timber and dressed stones for the repair of the temple. The workers acted with complete honesty. They were faithful and correct and did not require an accounting from them.

※【Deny one's life to preach and the door of the jail is opened】17-32 The high priest was full of jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail that night and ordered them to go to the temple courts to tell of this new life. The next day the Sanhedrin tried to take them out to judge them. But they could not find them. The people of the Sanhedrin were puzzled. They saw that the Word which they had forbid the apostles to proclaim was filled in Jerusalem. The apostles denied themselves to proclaim the Word like the money and the materials for the repair of the temple. They were willing to sacrifice and be used by the Lord. They only obeyed God rather than men. On one side was the faithful priest took the lead to repair the temple. On the other side the crafty high priest and the people of the Sanhedrin forsook the new life. They were jealous and wanted to grab men. The temple in their hearts was filthy and ruined and they were finally destroyed.

2.【Did not trust in God wholeheartedly and was finally killed】17-21 Thereafter Hazael king of Aram attacked Jerusalem. Joash did not take this warning to remove the evil. He did not trust in God wholeheartedly. But he gave away all the gold of the temple and the palace to Hazael. He relied on wealth and power. He was perfunctory and did not trust God wholeheartedly. After Jehoiada died he was even more presumptuous and did evil. He forsook God and was finally assassinated by his officials.

※【Trust in God in trouble and God works for the good of it】33-42 When the people of the Sanhedrin heard the reply of the apostles, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. The apostles were in a critical moment. They trusted God wholeheartedly and God raised a Pharisee named Gamaliel to work for the good of it. He exhorted the Sanhedrin to handle this carefully. So they flogged them and sent them away. Joash did not trust in God wholeheartedly. He trusted in the power of the enemy which only gave him a moment's peace. Finally he requited kindness with enmity and killed the son of Jehoiada. He sinned against God greatly. The apostles were humiliated for the name of the Lord. Their heart rejoiced and continued to proclaim the Word. They could not be beaten. Joash received his retribution and died due to his sins. His ending was tragic.

**Ps 105 / Rev 16:12 Main theme: The enemies will soon come out, seek and trust in God, and take possession of the foreign land**

 **-Seek / The enemies will come out**

The anti-God kings will come out. God's children should not be complacent.

(1)【Seek and tell of extensively and gain the good land】1-11God's children ought to offer their thanks as their sacrifice to glorify God. Do not receive the grace in vain but to proclaim God's deeds among the peoples. To proclaim the Lord, we must seek His holy words and observe His covenant and gain the promised inheritance. Do not chase after the wind on earth.

(2)【Obey the Lord's words completely and accomplish His work】12-41 Through trials Joseph kept the Lord's words firmly and was full of power. His people were favored. After Moses was refined, he obeyed the Lord's words completely. God performed a lot of miracles through him and he led God's people out of Egypt to the promise land.

(3)【Lead the people to gain the foreign land】42-45 We ought to seek and preach extensively so all peoples will obey the Lord's Word to be His able men to overcome the enemy to save men.

**Central point of the wheels: Seek God, deny your life to preach, block the gap and gain the inheritance**

Dear Lord, may You make me righteous and honest to block the gap, to deny myself to preach your Word, trust in You wholeheartedly and praise to overcome!

**2 Ki 13 / Ac 6**

**Main theme: Must turn from evil and do not stop doing good**

 **-Turn from evil / Do good**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 13:19 Ac 6:2-4

A discussion on turning from evil and doing good - on one side it concerned Jehoahaz and Jehoash the two kings of Israel both reigned successively but did not turn from worshiping the gold calf and led the people in sins. On the other side it concerned the apostles chose seven deacons to appease the complaints and block the gap. Stephen (the crown) was courageous and did good. He was filled with wisdom and the power of the Holy Spirit and refuted the people of the Sanhedrin. Thus he exhibited God's glory. We ought to imitate Elisha and Stephen to be faithful till death without compromising. They overcame and did good till the end.

**A. Do not be trapped in sin, appease the complaint and serve the Lord wholeheartedly**

Get stuck in sin (2 Ki 13:1-11) - Turn from evil (Ac 6:1-7)

1.【Trap the people in sin】1-11 Jehoahaz son of Jehu became king of Israel. He still imitated Jerohoam to do evil and caught the people in sin. They worshiped the gold calf and did not turn away from it. So God's anger burned against them and kept them under the power of Hazael king of Aram. But Jehoahaz sought God's favor and they were granted a deliverer. However, they still did not turn from the worship of the gold calf and Asherah, such that the king of Aram trampled on God's people with only a few remnants left. After he died, Jehoash continued as king. He still did evil in the eyes of God and did not turn away from the sin of worshiping the gold calf.

※【Lead men to turn from evil】1-7 Due to the increase of the number of disciples, there were some complaints of some widows of the Hebraic Jews who were overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Then the Twelve decided to choose seven men from among them who were known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom as deacons to take responsibility of the matter. So the apostles might give attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word. On one side was to appease the complaint and lead men from evil. On the other side was to cause the people to commit sin without turning away from it. The number of disciples increased and the priests believed. But they did not mind the Lord's heart completely. They did not leave Jerusalem. They did not obey the Lord's order to proclaim the gospel quickly to the whole area of Judea and even to the Gentiles. Therefore we will not only turn from sin. We also need to break away from our prejudice. Do not cease to do good and accomplish the great mission of gospel preaching. (Ac 1:8)

**B. Keep the Word and be wise, and overcome till the end**

Arrow of victory (2 Ki 13:12-25) - Fight till the end (Ac 6:8-15)

1.【Arrow of victory, fight till the end】12-19 Elisha the man of God suffered from the illness from which he died. Jehoash king of Israel came to see him and wept over him. He wept for the man of God of the generation and the chariots and horsemen of Israel. (2 Ki 2:12) In his sickness the man of God did not forget about the peace of Israel. He ordered the king to shoot the arrows towards east. He put his hands on the king's hands and told him that was the 'Lord's arrow of victory' which was the arrow of victory over Aram till they were completely destroyed. He also told him to take the arrows to strike the ground. But he only struck three times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him. He ought to have grabbed God's promise to strike five or six times till Aram was completely destroyed. But because he did not obey completely, he was able to defeat Aram for three times only.

※【Overcome the various enemies by the Holy Spirit】8-10 Stephen was chosen to be the deacon. He had great faith, grace and power and he did great wonders among the people. Men from other synagogues argued with him and he was like the arrow victory in God's hands. The people could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. Elisha was God's arrow of victory. He was faithful and victorious till the end. In his severe illness he was still concerned about the fate of the nation and his people. He had in mind of God's matters. He was truly the chariots and horsemen of Israel! Stephen guarded the truth without compromise. He also struck the arrow of victory till the end.

2.【Truly die completely will make people be resurrected】20-21 Elisha died and was buried. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw some Moabite raiders who entered the country. So they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life. This manifested the great power of resurrection for his deeds followed him. (Rev 14:13)

※【Truly die completely will not be afraid to be condemned】11-14 The people of the Sanhedrin stirred up the people to seize Stephen and bribed the people to produce false witnesses. They condemned him with serious wrong of blaspheming against Moses and speaking against the holy place and against the law. Though Stephen was like a convict sentenced to death, he had a spirit of death to face the suffering. He stayed calm and collected like the bones of Elisha. Death was at work in him, but life was at work in others manifesting the power of resurrection.

3.【Defeat the enemy thrice】22-25 Hazael troubled Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz. But God had compassion on them and did not banish them from His presence because of His covenant with his forefathers. Hazael died and Ben-Hadad his son succeeded him as king. Jehoash defeated the king of Aram three times and recovered part of the towns fulfilling the prophecy of Elisha the man of God. He could only defeat the Arameans three times. Until the time of Jeroboam the second, they were able to recover all of them. (2 Ki 10:32-33; 14:23-25)

※【Overcome till the end】15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they say that his face was like the face of an angel. He obeyed the Word and loved God. He was willing to deny himself and became the arrow of victory till the end. He greatly exhibited God's glory! Joash only defeated the enemy three times. He was unable to see God's complete glory. To him who overcomes and does the Lord's will to the end will receive the authority to reign together with the Lord like Stephen. He did good till the end and a crown of glory was prepared for him. (Rev 2:26-27)

**Ps 106 / Rev 16:13 Main theme: Be righteous and loving will proclaim the Lord; the evil spirits will harm men**

 **-Righteousness / Evil spirits**

Three evil spirits came out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, while the Holy Spirit will tell of God's words through consecrated instruments.

(1)【Observe righteousness will proclaim the Lord】1-5 If we will differentiate the noble and the lowly, we will become the mouth of the Lord. Only the spirit of filth that endangers men will come from the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast and the mouth of the false prophet.

(2)【God's righteousness and unfailing love】6-46 Looking back on the spiritual journey, the Israelites sinned and did evil. They were delivered by the Lord. Whenever they encountered difficulties, they wanted to turn the clock back. They were jealous and attacked the leader. They worshiped the false god made by their hands (the calf). They were unwilling to listen to God to gain the promised land. They united with Baals. After they had gained the land, they mixed with the Gentiles and served other gods. They greatly provoked God to anger and were brought low for God was righteous. But God has the abundant love and when He heard their cry, He relented and showed great mercy.

(3)【Pray that God will deliver and revive us】47-48 We ought to imitate Moses and Phinehas to understand God's righteousness and love. May God stop His anger and have compassion to gather us, so we may exalt the Lord's name in one heart and lead all peoples to God.

**Central point of the wheels: Act righteously, overcome the evil spirits, understand the will and fight till the end**

Dear Lord, may You grant me the faith to turn from evil completely, do good till the end to glorify your name, give thanks and praise your unfailing love!

**2 Ki 14 / Ac 7**

**Main theme: Be arrogant and contending will be defeated; be bold to guard the Word pleases God**

 **-Contend / Guard the Word**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 14:9 Ac 7:59-60

A discussion on contention and guarding the Word - on one side it concerned Amaziah King of Judah defeated the Edomites and became arrogant. He contended with Joash by flesh in the battle. As he did not listen to the exhortation, he was defeated bitterly. On the other side it concerned Stephen relied on the Holy Spirit and guarded the Word boldly. He denied his life to preach the Word. He was a worker greatly transformed by the Spirit, the Word and love. He glorified God greatly.

**A. Do not be arrogant, do not contend, through hard refinement be fit for the Lord's use**

Contend (2 Ki 14:1-14) - Guard the Word (Ac 7:1-29)

1.【Be arrogant and contend by the flesh】1-10 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah began to reign. Though he observed the laws on the face, he was not wholehearted. Nor did he imitate David. The people still offered in the high places. He defeated the Edomites and became arrogant. He thought he was terrific and contended with Jehoash the king of Israel. They met at the battlefield. King Jehoash warned him why should he cause the downfall of himself and Judah. Bu he was bent on it and would not take the warning.

※【Debate for the Word boldly by the Holy Spirit】1-21 Stephen appealed firmly before the Sanhedrin. He guarded the Word bravely without fear because God reigned in his heart. Amaziah did not exalt God as king. He allowed the people to offer in the high places and sinned against God. Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word. He spoke of the everlasting plan of God and how He had chosen Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. He talked of Joseph was selected but his brothers were jealous of him and sold him to Egypt. But God was with him. He feared God and overcame the temptation and persecution of the prostitute. He was exalted to be the ruler over Egypt. In the famine he save the whole family of Jacob. After Amaziah defeated Edom, he became arrogant. He contended in the flesh and did not fear God.

2.【Be wayward and is bitterly defeated】11-14 After Amaziah overcame Edom, he brought back the idols from Edom and worshiped them. He sought the gods of Edom and became wayward and forsook God. (2 Ch 25:14-16) He did not listen to the exhortation and decided to contend with the king of Israel. As a result, they were defeated bitterly. He was taken captive. All the gold and silver and the articles in the temple were all brought away together with the hostages.

※【Be refined and fit for use】22-29 Moses grew up in the palace of Pharaoh. He was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He thought himself was undoubtedly the deliverer. But he came out and killed by flesh. He was thus pursued by Pharaoh and fled to Midian. Within the forty years in the desert, God refined his body and his flesh to be fit for use. Amaziah also grew up in the palace. He was wayward and unwilling to be dealt with. He did not listen to exhortation. He contended by the flesh and was beaten bitterly. He sought the gods of Edom and provoked God to anger. Moses sought the Lord God and was refined with favor.

**B. Do not trap the people into sin; deny your life to preach the Word and attack sin**

Trap in sin (2 Ki 14:15-29) - Attack sin (Ac 7:30-60)

1.【Forsake God and finally be killed】15-22 Amaziah king of Judah lived for another fifteen years after the death of the king of Israel. But he was not contrite and did not turn back. Instead he forsook God and took His grace in vain. As a result someone conspired against him and killed him because he conspired against God and sought the gods of Edom.

※【Get close to God and be revealed】30-43 After forty years of edification in the desert, God appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush to summon him to save the suffering people. After the people had come out of Egypt, Moses received the living words on Mount Sinai and passed on to them. The patriarchs did not listen and instead abandoned God. They carved a gold calf and sinned against God greatly. There were other gods in the heart of Amaziah. He failed God's tolerance. Finally he abandoned God and was killed.

2.【Still trap the people in sin】23-29 Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became the king. He did evil in the eyes of God. God saw the sufferings of the Israelites and delivered them through him. He restored a lot of places along the boundaries. But he forsook the faith and did not turn away from worshiping the gold calf. He caused the people to sin. All his military achievements and results were recorded in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel. God will bring every deed into judgment, whether it is good or evil. (Ecc 12:14)

※【Deny your life to preach the Word and attack sin】44-60 Stephen pointed out they were the same as their fathers - stiff-necked and uncircumcised in their hearts and ears. They always resisted the Holy Spirit and persecuted the prophets and even killed the Righteous One Jesus. When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. Stephen denied himself to preach the Word and attacked sin. He was full of power and the love of God. Before he died he prayed to the Lord not to hold this sin against them. The people stoned him. But he was filled with the Holy Spirit and Jesus stood up to receive him. He went to heaven with glory. Jeroboam was able to restore the land from the enemy for a time. But he did not turn from his sin. Stephen was like a kernel of wheat which died and produced many seeds. He was the precedent to open up Antioch to preach the gospel to the Gentiles with an everlasting value. (Rev 14:13)

**Ps 107 / Rev 16:14 Main theme: The evil spirits gather and men die; God gathers the redeemed people to save others**

 **-God gathers / The Devil gathers**

The evil spirits gather the various kings to contend, thus many people are ruined. The redeemed people are gathered by the Holy Spirit to exalt the Lord's name in one heart and grab to save the people.

(1)【Redeemed by the Lord and repay His kindness in one heart】1-3 The evil spirits gathered the kings to harm people. By the redemption of the Lord, the gathered saints ought to save men in one heart.

(2)【Do not forget the goodness and repay it】4-32 Men encountered distress and wandering, imprisonment and sickness. In the tempest and great trouble they were saved by the Lord. So we must not be ungrateful. We ought to give thanks and rejoice and tell of His deeds.

(3)【Meditate and pay attention to God's deeds】33-43 Why did the rivers turn into a desert and fruitful land into a salt waste? It is because of the wickedness of those who lived there. Why did the desert and parched ground turn to springs, the land yielded a harvest and the number of people increased? It is because of repentance and obeying the Word (Deu 7:12-15; 30:1-10) and God will bless. But if they acted with violence, then they would be disgraced, be captured and humbled. Therefore we ought to be humble before God forever and be a needy who always needs the Lord. Then we may be persistently in grace.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny your life to preach the Word, overcome the spiritual war and give thanks and praises**

Dear Lord, may You refine my flesh so I may deny myself to preach the Word, overcome till the end and give thanks to praise You!

**2 Ki 15 / Ac 8**

**Main theme: To sin will be avenged, preach the Word without stopping will be rewarded greatly**

 **-Do evil / Preach extensively (Turn from evil/relieve the prejudice)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 15:4-5 Ac 8:39

A discussion on doing evil and preaching extensively - on one side it concerned the kings of Israel did not turn from worshiping the gold calf for generations and trapped the people into sin. Thus murder and usurping occurred consecutively. The kings of Judah also did evil without imitating David. The people still offered at the high places. On the other side it concerned persecution came to Jerusalem and the apostles were scattered. Thus the gospel was spread throughout Samaria and Judea. This teaches us we ought not only to turn from evil, but also to relieve the prejudice, consider the Lord's mind and obey God's will to spread the gospel extensively.

**A. Do not do evil or lean on to power, deny yourself to obey the will and preach extensively**

Be punished (2 Ki 15:1-22) - Be favored (Ac 8:1-23)

1.【Be arrogant and infected by leprosy】1-7 Azariah (Uzziah)succeeded Amaziah as king. Though he did what was right in the eyes of God, the people still offered at the high places. He did extensive work and overcame the enemy greatly. He was greatly helped by God and became arrogant. He abused his power and was unfaithful to God. He entered the temple and burned incense without authorization. He violated God and thus he caught leprosy. He did not repent and was not cured till death. (2 Ch 26:16-23)

※【Is greatly persecuted and resulted an extensive preaching】1-8 Though the number of people grew in the churches of Jerusalem, they did not spread the gospel extensively. The Lord's will was not put through just like having leprosy in the spirit. There was great persecution in the churches and sufferings had put through God's will. Apart from the apostles, the disciples were scattered in all the areas of Judea and Samaria and the gospel was spread there. King Uzziah was arrogant and unfaithful. He caught leprosy. Philip humbled to be a child and was submissive to the Holy Spirit. God's will was unimpeded. He went down to Samaria to proclaim the Christ there and miracles followed. Many people were favored and the whole city had great joy. If we only preach the Word in our fancy place without obeying God's will, this is also the work of the high place.

2.【Trapped in sin and rely on power】8-22 Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned for six months as the king of Israel. He imitated the evil of his predecessors without turning away from the worship of the gold calf and caught the people in sins. Shallum betrayed him and assassinated him. He seized his throne fulfilling the prophecy that God promised the descendants of Jehu till the fourth generation. Shallum only reigned for a month and was seized and assassinated by Menahem. Menahem was a more brutal person. He even ripped open all the pregnant women. He did not turn away from worshiping the gold calf all his life and caught the people in sins. The Assyrian king came to attack him. He did not trusted in God but gave away all the silver to Assyria. He relied on power to strengthen his position.

※【Bound by sin and rely on money】9-23 A man named Simon in Samaria had practiced sorcery. He also believed in Jesus and was baptized. He was amazed by the miracle of Philip. So when the apostles came, he saw Peter placed his hands on the people and they received the Holy Spirit. He then offered them money so he might have this ability. Peter saw that he was captive to sin and said to him, "May your money perish with you!" All generations of the Israelite kings were captive to sin and they caught themselves and the people in sins. Menahem was brutal and relied on money and power. He did not repent and would be destroyed.

**B. Follow the Spirit to act and preach the Word extensively; do not turn from evil and is finally taken captive**

Murder (2 Ki 15:23-38) - Save men (Ac 8:24-40)

1.【Murder and usurp and is taken captive】23-31 Pekahiah the son of Menahem reigned two years. He also did evil. He did not turn from the sin of worshiping the gold calf. As a result his chief officer Pekah conspired against him. He assassinated Pekahiah and succeeded him as king. He reigned for twenty years and did evil in the eyes of God. He did not turn from worshiping the gold calf and caught the people in sins. Due to this the king of Assyria came and took their land. He deported the people to Assyria. This was the first captivity of Israel. The last one to seize the throne was Hoshea. He still did not take the warning. He conspired against Pekah. He assassinated him and succeeded him as king.

※【Follow the Spirit to preach the Word and save men】24-35 The apostles proclaimed the Word of the Lord and returned to Jerusalem. Philip was led to go south to the desert road. He met an eunuch of the queen of the Ethiopians who had returned after the worship . He was sitting in his chariot reading the book of the prophet. Philip obeyed the Holy Spirit and went near the chariot. Afterwards he was invited to board the chariot to proclaim the message where Jesus was killed. On one side was doing evil to harm others and was taken captive to other nation. On the other side was doing good to save men and favor came upon the Gentiles.

2.【Do not enter the temple and do not seek】32-38 While Uzziah had leprosy, Jotham his son governed the people of the land and then succeeded his father. He rebuilt the gate of the temple but he did not enter the temple of God. He did not seek God and allowed the people to offer and burn incense at the high places and continued their corrupt practices. (2 Ch 27:1-4)

※【Continue to obey the will to preach extensively】36-40 The eunuch listened to the Word on one side and was glad to receive it on the other side. He believed Jesus Christ is the Son of God. When they arrived a place with water, he requested to be baptized. So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Thereafter the Spirit of God took Philip away and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing! Jotham did not enter the temple. He did not advance himself and allowed the people to offer at the high places. He did not seek God all his life and was not favored. The people were also not favored. Philip continued to seek to understand God's will. He continued to obey the will and pressed forward to proclaim the gospel from Azotus to Caesarea. Many people were led to be favored.

**Ps 108 / Rev 16:15 Main theme: Be watchful to obey the Word by the power of God and gain the foreign land**

 **-Be watchful / Preach the Word**

Blessed are those who wait watchfully for the Lord's coming.

(1)【Repay the goodness of the Lord】1-6 The Lord will treat him with love and faithfulness who has a steadfast faith and who keeps the covenant with watchfulness. May the Lord grant us so that our body and soul are completely sanctified and delivered in order that we may listen and keep his covenant to praise Him among the nations and repay His grace.

(2)【God's promise】7-9 All the land and the nations belong to God. Let us pursue the holiness and love and unite with God. Then we will gain all the land as our inheritance.

(3)【Pray that God will help to attack the enemy and gain the land】10-13 Who will bring us to the fortified city? If we do not remove all the devoted things, God will not be with us. We will not be able to take even the smallest Ai. We must trust in God to be able to exhibit the power to overcome the enemy and gain the land.

**Central point of the wheels: Pray watchfully and turn from evil, preach extensively and take possession of the land**

Dear Lord, may You make me turn from evil thoroughly, consider your mind, obey your orders and preach the gospel extensively till the end of the world!

**2 Ki 16 / Ac 9**

**Main theme: Do not act presumptuously, retreat before the Lord, and preach quickly and extensivly according to His instruction**

 **-Be wanton / Preach extensively**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 16:10-11 Ac 9:3-6

A discussion on being wanton and preaching extensively - on one side it concerned Ahaz King of Judah was wanton and did evil. He was not willing to repent before God's admonishment. He changed the pattern of serving in the church and greatly violated God. On the other side it concerned Saul fell before God's light. He was contrite thoroughly and called to be assigned. He preached the gospel extensively and worked according to the pattern of God. He became an instrument fit for God's use.

**A. Do evil presumptuously; the worst of sinners is favored**

Presumptuous (2 Ki 16:1-9) - Contrite (Ac 9:1-20)

1.【Imitate the foreign nations and act detestably】1-4 Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. Not only did he walk in the ways of the kings of Israel, he also followed the detestable ways of the foreign nations. He sacrificed his son in the fire and offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree. He had provoked God to anger.

※【Shone by the light and was contrite and repented】1-9 Saul wantonly persecuted the churches. He used brutal means to harm the believers. On the road to Damascus to take them as prisoners, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground. Jesus whom he had persecuted appeared to him personally. As such he was unable to see. He did not eat or drink for three days and was contrite to repent. Ahaz followed the foreign nations and did detestable things. He did not know to repent just like a blind man who did not know God's majesty and awe.

2.【Do not take lesson but rely on men】5-9 God raised the king of Aram and king of Israel to join force against Jerusalem to punish Ahaz. But Ahaz did not take the lesson. Instead he went to rely on the power of Assyria. He took the silver and gold from the temple and sent them as gift to king of Assyria. Though the king Assyria complied to attack Damascus, thereafter he gave him trouble instead. (2 Ch 28:20-21)

※【Was deeply contrite and preached Christ】10-20 Under God's light, Saul fell down and was contrite. He confessed thoroughly. In Damascus a disciple named Ananias was instructed by God in a vision. He placed his hands on Saul so he was able to see. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was called. Thereafter Saul preached Jesus in Damascus and testified Jesus was Christ and the Son of God. Ahaz did not take lesson when he was disciplined. He was not contrite. He relied on men and was in vain.

**B. Understand God's will deeply and save men; change the pattern and violate God**

Go out of form (2 Ki 16:10-20) - Obey the will (Ac 9:21-43)

1.【Imitate the pattern of the foreign altar】10-16 Ahaz went to Damascus to meet the king of Assyria. He got a sketch of the altar and gave it to Uriah the priest. He ordered to build an altar for him. When he returned he offered sacrifices without authorization on the new altar. He was daring and changed the pattern of the temple as he pleased.

※【Retreat before God and understand the pattern deeply】21-31 Saul was led by God to retreat to Arabia. He was edified by God personally for three years to eat up the scroll and put the old self to death. He deeply understood the mystery of the gospel. (Gal 1:11-17;; Eph 3:1-8) Ahaz pursued the foreign nation's pattern of the altar so the ministry went completely out of form and the quality was changed. In all his actions Saul did according to God's pattern. He did not follow men's desire but obeyed God's will. After three years he then went to Jerusalem. Due to the receipt and testimony of Barnabas, he joined the disciples. Later on, due to the persecution of the Jews, he was brought back to his hometown in Caesarea. He hid and waited for God's timing.

2.【Do evil presumptuously and violate God】17-20 Ahaz became more presumptuous and evil. He even removed the basins in the temple and demolished the bronze sea and the bronze bulls. He removed the royal entryway of the temple to prevent people to enter the temple in deference to the king Assyria. He had greatly sinned against God due to his wanton evil. He ruined the ministry of the temple and turned from the Word of God.

※【Died and resurrected and glorified God】32-43 The church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria ministered according to God's will and enjoyed peace. It was strengthened and it grew in numbers. Peter traveled about the country to preach and cured a paralytic of eight years. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord. In Joppa there was a disciple who was always doing good. She became sick and died. Peter was invited to come. He knelt on his knees and prayed. He ordered the dead to arise. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Ahaz was wanton and did evil. He even shut the doors of the temple (2 Ch 28:24) to prevent people to enter it to be favored. He caused all his people in paralysis and the despair of death. Dorcas was always doing good and many remembered her. After she rose from her death, she had more good witnesses. Many people believed and gained life because of her. Glory was ascribed to God.

**Ps 109 / Rev 16:16 Main theme: A throng of enemies surrounded to attack, see and pray thoroughly, destroy the enemies and save men**

 **-Pray thoroughly / A throng of enemies**

(1)【Pray wholeheartedly and plead deeply and thoroughly】1-20 As our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of the evil, therefore we must stand firm in the truth and be clothed with the full armor of God to grab the Lord's words and pray wholeheartedly that the Lord will destroy the enemies. Even the names of the descendants of their fathers have to be blotted out. We ought to discern, hate completely and attack thoroughly all the evil spirits from the mouth of the anti-Christ, the false prophets and the great prostitute.

(2)【Pray that God will save me for His name's sake】21-29 The enemies may curse but God will bless so they will be put to shame. God's servant will rejoice.

(3)【Greatly extol the Lord by faith】30-31 We do not care that at present the group of devil will attack and darkness is in control, but God will stand at the right hand of the needy one. Brightness and blessings will come.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be wanton, pray wholeheartedly, preach fervently and overcome the devil's spirit**

Dear Lord, may You make me fall and be contrite thoroughly, so my life may be renewed to understand your will deeply, to pray wholeheartedly, to preach the gospel extensively to repay your kindness!

**2 Ki 17 / Ac 10**

**Main theme: Do not worship other gods, do not follow the rules and obey the Lord's order completely**

 **-Taken captive / Be assigned**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 17:33 Ac 10:34-35

A discussion on being captivated and being assigned - on one side it concerned the Israelites forsook God and worshiped other gods. Thus they were attacked and besieged by the king of Assyria and finally taken captive to the foreign land. On the other side it concerned Cornelius a Gentile feared God and often did good. He was acceptable to God and thus salvation came to his family. Peter saw the vision of spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. This teaches us we ought to break away from the prejudice and obey God's order to go into all the world to spread the gospel. Do not call anything impure that God has made clean and imitate the Lord to obey the Father's will as His food (Jn 4:34)

**A. Abandon other gods, break away from prejudice, obey God's will and preach to the foreign land**

Other gods (2 Ki17:1-18) - Prejudice (Ac 10:1-21)

1.【Abandon God, do evil and is taken captive】1-6 Hoshea was the last king of Israel. He seized the throne and did evil in the eyes of God. As such the king of Assyria invaded him and he had to serve him. Thereafter he turned against Assyria and relied on Egypt. Finally he was put in prison. The Israelites abandoned God and did evil. Thus they were subjugated and captured.

※【Fear God, do good and is favored】1-6 Though Cornelius was a Gentile, he and all his family were devout and God-fearing. He prayed regularly and gave generously to those in need and was remembered by God. God appeared to him in a vision and told him to send someone from Joppa to bring Peter back. Compared to the Israelites who was the chosen people of God, they abandoned God and did evil. They were thus subjugated and destroyed.

2.【Worship other gods and provoke God's anger】7-18 Israel was taken captive because they forsook God and worshiped other gods and followed the practices of the other nations as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. They did not take the exhortation of God through the prophets. They rejected the laws of God and followed the worthless gods. Not only did they worshiped the gold calf and Asherah, they also sacrificed the sons and daughters in the fire. They provoked God to great anger and were driven out.

※【See a vision and God testifies】7-21 After Cornelius had seen the vision, he immediately sent men to invite Peter. Peter had just gone up the roof to pray. Suddenly he saw a vision full of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. There was a sound telling him to kill and eat. He said, "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." God's answer was, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times and it was taken back to heaven. While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius arrived. The Holy Spirit proved the vision. Israel was full of the customs of the foreign idols and evil spirit and thus was captured. God wanted Peter to bear His mind to remove the prejudice and obey His will to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. But he finally had not removed the prejudice completely. He was even afraid of the circumcision group. (Gal 2:11-14) We ought to follow Paul to remove the prejudice completely without worshiping other gods and not by the power. He was not disobedient to the vision from heaven all his life. (Ac 26:19)

**B. Fear God, keep the Word firmly, proclaim Christ and the Spirit pours**

Sin against God (2 Ki 17:19-41) - Fear God (Ac 10:22-48)

1.【Taken captive to the foreign land】19-23 Even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord and they followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore God rejected the whole tribe of Israel. He afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria.

※【The gospel is spread to the Gentiles】22-29 Peter obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit and went to the house of Cornelius together with some of the brothers. Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends to wait for them. God had shown Peter that he should not call any man impure or unclean. He ought to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. But the chosen people had defiled themselves with the foreign customs and became impure and were rejected by God. They failed the will and grace of God's selection and were captured to the foreign land.

2.【Punished for not fearing God】24-41 The king of Assyria brought the foreign tribes to Samaria to replace the Israelites just like the church was mixed with many nominal Christians. They did not fear God and did evil wantonly. As such God showed His holiness and sent lions to kill them. The king of Assyria ordered one of the captive priests to live there to teach them about the rules of God. But they all worshiped their own gods. They were double-minded. They feared God and served their own gods. They still followed their own customs. God's chosen people ought to keep God's laws forever without following the foreign customs.

※【Favored for fearing God and obeying the Word】30-48 The whole family of Cornelius feared God and thirsted for the salvation. They waited to hear the Lord's words. Peter testified he was instructed by God that He did not show favoritism but accepted men from every nation who feared Him and do what was right. Then he proclaimed how Jesus did good and preached the Word. Later on, He was killed. The third day He rose from the dead. Whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name. Immediately the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message and they spoke in tongues and praised God. Then he baptized them and the foreign church was thus established. God is righteous! On one side was the Samaritans were punished for not fearing God and His Word. On the other side were great blessing for they listened and believed in the gospel. They feared God and obeyed the Word.

**Ps 110 / Rev 16:17 Main theme: Obey the Lord's words completely and wait for God to accomplish everything for you**

 **-Sit down / Accomplished**

If God's children are willing to be contrite and accept salvation which has been accomplished on the cross, He will punish the enemies for us so the evil will drink up the bowl of God's wrath.

(1)【Unite with the Lord and sit at His right hand】1 We ought to make every effort to enter the Lord's rest and put the flesh and ourselves to death by the Spirit. We ought to unite with God and wait in rest to make the enemies a footstool for His feet.

(2)【God will accomplish everything for you】2-6 a) to bestow power and strength; b) your people (fruit) are good and numerous as the dew of the youth, holy and willing to sacrifice; c) God swears to establish you as priests for your jealousy so that you may be close to serve Him forever; d) God will subdue the kings and many nations and all peoples.

(3)【You will lift up your head】7 The head of the righteous will be lifted up like Joseph and David.

**Central point of the wheels: Forsake other gods, break away from prejudice, obey till the end and God accomplishes**

Dear Lord, may You make me abandon all other gods and break away from my prejudice so I may consider your mind to obey the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel extensively and wait for God's accomplishment!

**2 Ki 18 / Ac 11**

**Main theme: Be positive to obey God's will and do not hear the voice of man and of the enemies'**

 **-Destroy the enemies' plan / Obey God's will (the voice of the enemies/ the voice of the Lord)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 18:36 Ac 11:17-18

A discussion on destroying the enemies' plan and obeying God's will - on one side it concerned the king of Assyria threatened Hezekiah, king of Judah and his people. His plot was to make their hearts waver in God's promise and faith, so they would be terrified and surrender. On the other side it concerned the circumcision faction criticized Peter for entering into the house of uncircumcised men. Peter boldly argued with them and God's will overcame.

**A. Trust in God wholeheartedly, demolish the idols and witness boldly**

Be afraid of the enemies (2 Ki 18:1-22) - Overcome the enemies (Ac 11:1-18)

1.【Nullify the idols】1-12 Hezekiah (strength of God) became the king of Judah. He followed David and did what was right in the eyes of God. He obeyed God's order and removed the high places. He smashed all the idols God hated. He broke the bronze snake Moses had made for the people had been burning incense to it. At that time, Israel the northern nation was already captured by Assyria. Hezekiah trusted in God wholeheartedly. He kept the commands. He turned against Assyria and was unwilling to serve him.

※【Eliminate stereotypes】1-12 The apostles and the brothers heard that the Gentiles had received the Word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. Peter bravely witnessed the Gentiles were favored and God had given him the vision. He also proved them the leading of the Holy Spirit to preach to them. Hezekiah was bold to remove the high places and idols left by the generations. Peter was also courageous to break the prejudice of the Jewish customs and faced the objection of the group of circumcision. Israel was wayward and did evil and thus taken captive to Assyria. There were also many of the circumcision group were taken captive. Only Peter and Hezekiah trusted in God wholeheartedly and were strengthened.

2.【Is terrified and waver】13-22 Thereafter Assyria came up again to attack the fortified cities of Judah. Hezekiah became afraid as he looked by sight and his faith was weak. So he asked forgiveness from the king of Assyria and was willing to pay the penalty. But it was useless. The king of Assyria sent the field commander to Jerusalem and threatened with raving to force them to surrender in order to waver the faith of Hezekiah and the people.

※【Witness boldly】13-18 Peter testified to the people that once he started to preach in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell on them which proved that the Gentiles were also favored with salvation. When they heard this, they no longer argued but gave praise to God. Peter firmly obeyed God's will without compromise. He refuted the circumcision group. Hezekiah was afraid and shaken when he faced the attack of the enemy. On one side was victory by trusting in the Holy Spirit to obey God's will. On the other side was failure due to reliance on gold and silver and power.

**B. Do not be afraid of the voice of the enemies, preach widely in troubles and establish the church**

The enemies destroy (2 Ki 18:23-37) - God establishes (Ac 11:19-30)

1.【Be firm in troubles】23-35 The field commander mocked and despised the people of Judah that they could not repulse even one officer of the least of his master's officials. The officials begged them to speak in Aramaic lest the people might hear. The enemy became more rampant. They even set an evil plot to lure them to surrender and lead them to another vineyard. All the gods of the foreign nations were unable to save them from the hands of Assyria. "How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from the hands of the king of Assyria?" But the people said nothing in reply and were not shaken.

※【Preach extensively in troubles】19-26 The church in Antioch was established on the martyr of Stephen and the persecution of the church. The faith of the people was strengthened by the mocking and despise of the enemy. Why be afraid? The church of Jerusalem sent Barnabas to strengthen the church. So Barnabas gathered Saul together with the church to be favored. Thus Antioch became the centers for foreign mission and nursing. Assyria attempted to seize Jerusalem to become the evil center. The enemy's plan could certainly not succeed.

2.【Trust in God wholeheartedly in troubles】36-37 Hezekiah returned from his failure. He trusted in God wholeheartedly and ordered the people to be silent without fear and not to look to the proud. (Ps 40:4) The officials tore their clothes and reported the words of the enemy to the king. Affliction forced them to be in one heart to look to the Most High God.

※【Help one another with love in troubles】27-30 The Holy Spirit prophesied through Agabus the prophet that a famine would spread over the Roman world. Sure enough it was fulfilled. The church of Antioch decided to send Barnabas and Saul to give help to the brothers in Judea. The people of Judah were comforted and strengthened by the words of Hezekiah in their affliction. Distress made the foreign church and the Jewish church loved and helped each other more.

**Ps 111 / Rev 16:18 Main theme: Fear God and obey the Word, God reveals His power so the wicked is greatly shaken**

 -**Great power / Great shake**

The earthly people will be greatly shaken so they may awake and do good.

(1)【We ought to praise and extol God】1 God's children ought to extol God greatly with all their hearts in the council and in the assembly.

(2)【We ought to remember God's works】2-6 He is righteous. But He is gracious and compassionate. He provides food for those who fear Him and gives them the lands of other nations.

(3)【God's precepts are trustworthy】7-9 The Lord's Word is steadfast. He who humbles to confess his sins will be delivered by the Lord and gain the promised blessings. Blessed is he who fears the name of the Lord and trembles at His words.

(4)【We ought to fear and obey His commands】10 Be a person of wisdom and good understanding so we may gain blessing without trouble. God will exhibit His power through him who obeys His commands and keeps His covenant.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God, keep His Word firmly, identify the plot of the enemies and do not be shaken**

Dear Lord, may You make me keep your Word firmly, to destroy the enemies' plot and not be led astray, so I may preach the gospel widely and establish the Antioch.

**2 Ki 19 / Ac 12**

**Main theme: Believe firmly in the Lord's words, pray fervently with one heart and God works wonder**

 **-Call out / Pray fervently**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 19:35-36 Ac 12:5

A discussion on calling out and praying fervently - on one side it concerned Hezekiah and Isiash the prophet were bullied by the king of Assyria. They prayed zealously for the remnants in distress and were granted help from God. So the king of Assyria was punished. On the other side it concerned the church was persecuted by king Herod. They prayed fervently and was granted by God. Peter was released from the prison and king Herod was punished. The church revived and God's Word continued to spread. The church is built on the rock of Christ, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Only by using the power of prayer and call with one heart fervently, we will see God's miracles appear to exhibit His glory. (Mt 16:18-19)

**A. Do not be afraid, pray fervently together, be delivered and freed from the enemy's hands**

Plead together (2 Ki 19:1-19) - Be saved (Ac 12:12-1-13)

1.【Cry out in trouble and do not be afraid】1-7 Hezekiah heard the threats and blasphemy of the enemy. He tore his clothes and entered God's temple. He zealously interceded and prayed to the Lord. The whole of Judah from top to bottom was facing the crisis, rebuke and disgrace like a woman who had no strength to give birth. So he sent someone to Isaiah the prophet to pray for the remnants that still survived. The prophet comforted them with God's words not to be afraid for He would put a spirit in the enemy so he would return to his own country and be cut down by the sword.

※【The church prayed fervently and was not afraid】1-5 King Herod began to persecute the church. He killed James and put Peter in prison and planned to bring him out for public trial the next day. The church prayed fervently for him. The king of Assyria also persecuted the people of Judah. But they need not be afraid. The attack of Satan forced God's children to pray fervently and they would gain faith and comfort from His words. If we pray in one heart in distress, we will see that there is no way on earth but there is a way in heaven.

2.【Pray for deliverance from the enemy's hand】8-19 The king of Assyria again sent a letter to threaten Hezekiah not to hear the deceiving words of God. The kings of Assyria had completely destroyed all the other nations. "And will you be delivered?" Under the threat and pressure of the enemy, Hezekiah spread out the letter before God. He prayed that God would deliver him from the enemy's hand by faith. "So that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God."

※【Is delivered from the enemy's hand】6-13 God heard the prayer of the church. The night before Herod was to take him out to be tried, He sent an angel to deliver him from a three storey prison. Peter came to himself and knew God had saved him from the hands of king Herod. He then went to the house of Mark. They were staying together to pray. Hezekiah also prayed God to delivery him from the hands of the king of Assyria so all nations would know God. God is greater than all gods and only the Lord is the true God!

**B. Pray fervently and is granted, the enemy is punished and the Lord's Word continues to increase**

Is granted (2 Ki 19:20-37) - Revive (Ac 12:14-25)

1.【Pray fervently and is granted】20-34 Isaiah the prophet told Hezekiah God had heard his prayer. God had disciplined the nations and the people of God through Assyria. But he was arrogant and he lifted his eyes in pride against the Holy One of Israel. He raged against God. Thus God would use a hook to make him return. The prophet prophesied Israel would revive. The house of Judah would take root below and bear fruit above. God promised He would protect the holy city.

※【Pray and see God's miracle】14-19 The church prayed fervently for Peter and he was granted out of the prison. But when Peter came to the door and Rhoda the servant girl heard Peter's voice, they were unable to believe and thought it was his angel. Until they opened the door and saw Peter, they were astonished. Peter testified how God led him out of the prison. Then he left for another place. In the morning Herod executed the guards for they could not find him. The prayer of Hezekiah was also answered. Not only was he promised to punish the enemy, the holy city would be saved and the people would revive. The church also took root and bore choice fruit in distress.

2.【The enemy is punished and the Lord's words are fulfilled】35-37 That night God sent an angel to put to the enemy to death for a hundred and eighty five thousand men. The king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He was killed by his sons when he was worshiping in his temple. This fulfilled the prophecy of the prophet. God's will had a great victory.

※【The enemy is punished and the Lord's Word continues to increase】20-35 Herod persecuted the church and deserved his death. He was extremely haughty and took the position of God. He did not give glory to God and God sent an angel to punish him. So he was eaten by worms and died. The king of Assyria and his troops also had the same ending. The word of God continued to increase and spread. The new phase of preaching to the Gentiles was opened from Antioch. The remnants of Judah also took root and bore fruit to gain revival.

**Ps 112 / Rev 16:9 Main theme: Love God's Word and be established, glorify God and benefit men; be wayward and collapse**

 **-Be established / Collapse**

The city of wickedness split and collapsed.

(1)【Blessed is he who fears the Lord and finds delight in His commands】1-9 Abraham and Joseph were the best examples of fearing God. They loved God's commands more than anything else. Solomon understood and preached the Word. But he did not act on the Word. He loved himself and the world more than the commands of God. Blessed is he who fears the Lord and loves His words more than anything:

1. Their descendants will be blessed and mighty in the land. (descendants also mean the fruit that they bear)

2. He will be abundant and always in grace due to righteousness.

3. Even in the darkness and distress, there will be light.

4. He will continue to do good and denies himself to love men. Good will come to him who gives generously to the poor. His righteousness stands forever.

5. He is established by the Lord and never be shaken in whatever matters.

6. He will be exalted with great honor and be forever remembered.

(2)【Woe for being wayward】10 He who turns his own way or sins and does evil or does not act on the Lord's words upon hearing will fall for his foundation is built on the sand. He will end up with gnashing teeth.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and take delight in His Word, pray together to overcome the enemy so the Lord's word continues to increase**

Dear Lord, may You make us fear God and find delight in His Word, do not be afraid of the enemies' threat but pray fervently with one heart. Then we will be granted to spread the gospel widely!

**2 Ki 20 / Ac 13**

**Main theme: Do not turn back or show off; deny oneself to preach the Word to repay the Lord's kindness**

 **-For self / For the Lord**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 20:7 Ac 13:2-3

A discussion on for self and for the Lord - on one side it concerned Hezekiah was healed after a serious sickness and barely escaped with his life. He could not stand up to the test and showed off all his wealth before the messenger of king Babylon. He was not willing to humble and be remorseful before Isaiah the prophet. He was selfish and did not care for his descendants and resulted in Judah being taken captive and subjugated. On the other side it concerned Saul and Barnabas were sent off to preach the Word. They exalted Christ and denied themselves for the Lord. Thus many were favored. This teaches us that we must die completely to the world and vanity. Do not show off, do not turn back and take a spirit to suffer to spread the Word and follow the Lord till the end.

**A. Escape from death, be favored and sent, work with the Holy Spirit**

Be favored (2 Ki 20:1-11) - Repay the kindness (Ac 13:1-27)

1.【Cry and pray and be favored】1-7 Hezekiah was sick to the point of death. Isaiah the prophet passed the word of God to him to put the house in order. He wept bitterly before God so He might remember his good deeds. The merciful God answered his plea and added fifteen years to his life and promised to protect and save the holy city. The prophet applied a poultice of figs (the living Word) to his boil and he recovered.

※【Pray together and be sent】1-15 Saul the worst of sinners was favored. He was shown with compassion from God to become alive from the dead. Thus he did not forget to repay the kindness all his life. He gathered with his co-workers in Antioch to serve the Lord in one heart. They fasted and prayed and received the will from the Holy Spirit to sent Barnabas and himself to work. Mark was also their aid. On one side was sick to the point of death and answered after bitter weeping. On the other side was to wait in one heart and granted after fervent plea. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and had great authority. He rejected Bar-Jesus a false prophet. He rebuked him for confusing the Lord's Word and he became immediately blind. Isaiah was ordered to proclaim God's word. He was also full of power so Hezekiah recovered from his sickness and the people were saved from the hands of Assyria. Mark followed till Perga and withdrew from them. In the later fifteen years Hezekiah was also ungrateful and turned back. He was unable to stand the test.

2.【Is given a sign】8-11 After Hezekiah was cured, he asked for a sign from God to go up to the temple of God. God also granted him so the shadow went back ten steps. This not only showed God's unlimited power so that the heavenly hosts changed. It also revealed God's condescension and undertaking and exhibited Christ was the Word that became flesh. He was crucified on the cross showing His love of sacrifice. (Php 2:5-8)

※【Is given a Savior】16-27 Paul spoke of the history of selection of Israel. God removed Saul and made David the king. From the descendants of David God brought a Savior Jesus revealing God's great love of redemption. God gave the sign of the shadow going back ten steps which showed Christ's great love of denial and sacrifice. Therefore we ought to follow David not to fail God's selection and great love, and obey God's will in everything to become a man after God's heart.

**B. Do not show off, do not slight, be courageous to preach the Lord's Word widely**

Care for oneself (2 Ki 20:12-21) - Deny oneself (Ac 13:28-52)

1.【Show off oneself greatly】12-15 Hezekiah recovered from his severe illness and was shown great favor. But he could not stand the test. The king of Babylon sent his envoys with letters and gifts so he was overwhelmed and even acknowledged the enemy as friend. He treated them with honor and showed them all the gold and silver in his storehouses and armory. He showed off himself and boasted of himself with the honor and abundance from God.

※【Exalt the risen Christ】25-37 John the Baptist was willing to be low. He exalted Christ (Jn 3:30) and deemed himself unworthy even to untie the shoelace for the Lord. In Paul's sharing, he also exalted Christ, how He was killed and rose from the dead which fulfilled the prophecy of the Scripture. Hezekiah only valued the visit of the envoys of Babylon. He coveted vanity and boasted of himself. Thus he left trouble behind. Paul and John both considered all things rubbish except Christ as the surpassing greatness. Hezekiah showed his stupidity. His spiritual 'sickness of show off' was not removed.

2.【Be perfunctory and care only for oneself】16-21 Therefore the prophet declared to Hezekiah: the time would surely come; all that his fathers had stored up would be carried off to Babylon. His sons would also be taken away to Babylon as eunuchs. Hezekiah only cared for the peace and security in his lifetime. He was favored but he was ungrateful. He did not care for his descendants. As a result, he was taken away for the same he had showed off.

※【Suffer to obey the will and deny oneself completely】38-52 Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the forgiveness of sins. They urged them to continue in the grace of God. Hezekiah only sought temporary ease and comfort. He was rebuked but was not contrite. He was unable to keep himself in the grace of God. The disciples were bold to preach without caring for themselves. Though they met the jealousy of the Jews and were expelled from the region, they were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. They continued to go to other places to preach. Hezekiah was selfish. He bore Manasseh the worst son who harmed the whole tribe. He brought calamity to the country and the people.

**Ps 113 / Rev 16:20 Main theme: God removes the mountains and the islands but He raises those who observe and preach the Word**

 **-Humble / Mountains and islands**

The islands are the harbors of the nations and the mountains are places where the people will run after to worship. (Isa 2:2, 14) To trade with the world or to pursue vanity as the worldly people go after, or be arrogant to be men's backing and accept their worship will become empty momentarily. True blessings are to be humble to obey the Word and press forward for the goal in the Bible.

(1)【The name of the Lord ought to be praised】1-3 The name of the Lord is the Word of the Lord. If we are the servant of the Lord and follow closely to His words, we will see the words of the Lord never changes and He is always with us in every place. We see the glory of God due to faith and by following his words. How can we not praise!

(2)【The Lord is Most High】4-6 He sits enthroned on high and watches everything to seek if there is anyone willing to obey His words.

(3)【The Lord raises the humble man】7-8 He who humbles to be contrite to understand he is a lowly person will be exalted by the Lord. All his high mountains will be removed.

(4)【Obey the Word and rest will be fruitful】9 Keep the Feast of Tabernacles and follow Hannah. Though she was barren, she poured out to the Lord and obeyed the Word to rest. God made her a happy mother of children.

**Central point of the wheels: Understand the Lord's favor and repay His kindness, preach His Word and save men, praise the Lord's name**

Dear Lord, may You let me never forget your grace, to die completely to the world, to treat You as most treasured, to be bold to preach your Word and suffer to obey the will till the end!

**2 Ki 21 / Ac 14**

**Main theme: Remove anything detestable, overcome glory and shame, be bold to preach the Word and save men**

 **-Do wicked / Do good (harm others/save men)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 21:13-14 Ac 14:22

A discussion on doing wicked and doing good - on one side it concerned Manasseh became the king of Judah. He imitated the foreign nations and did detestable things. He induced the people to worship idols and act corruptly. He trapped them in sin and violated God greatly. On the other side it concerned Paul and Barnabas obeyed God's will to preach the Word and do good everywhere. They overcame glory and shame. They were unbeatable and glorified God greatly.

**A. Be bold to preach, overcome glory and shame, remove anything detestable to avoid being in trouble**

Do wicked (2 Ki 21:1-15) - Reject glory (Ac 14:1-16)

1.【Imitate the foreign nations and do detestable things】1-9 Manasseh became king but he did not follow David. He blindly followed the foreign nations and did all detestable things. He rebuilt the high places Hezekiah had destroyed. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and sacrificed his own son in the fire. He practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did not listen to the warning of the prophet and induced the people to do evil. He committed heinous sins. (Lev 20:1-6, 27)

※【Imitate Christ to preach the Word and save men】1-10 Paul and Barnabas learned from Christ. They preached boldly and did miraculous signs and wonders to confirm God’s message of His grace. Thus a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. The Jews stirred up the Gentiles and were against the apostles. They plotted afoot together to mistreat them and stone them. The apostles found out about it and fled to Lystra and Derbe to continue their preaching. On one side was inducing the people to sin and endanger people. On the other side was leading others to be favored and save men. Paul preached in Lystra and made a lame man from birth listened attentively. He accepted with faith and was cured. The man jumped up and began to walk. Manasseh and the hard-hearted Jews were just as stubborn and rebellious. They did not listen or believe. They rejected God’s laws. They knew but did not walk the way just like the lame. They harmed themselves and others.

2.【Trap the people in sin】10-15 Manasseh committed all detestable sins more evil than the Amorites. He led the people of Judah into sin and greatly provoked God to anger. God would send calamities to them just like punishing Samaria and the house of Ahah. Jerusalem was full of detestable idols and filth. God would make the holy city like one wiping a dish and turning it upside down and become a plunder of his foes.

※【Lead men from falsehood】11-16 When the crowd saw Paul made the lame walk, they thought the gods had come down in human form. They called the apostles as gods. The priest of the temple outside the city brought bulls and wreaths to offer sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and flatly rejected them. They taught them to turn away from the worthless idols to the living God who created all things. However, Manasseh had led the people in worthless worship. He did not worship the Creator and was no different from the Gentiles.

**B. Keep the Word persistently, do not forsake God, deny yourself to preach and be unbeatable**

Be wayward (2 Ki 21:16-26) - Keep the Word (Ac 14:17-28)

1.【Shed the blood of the innocent greatly】16-18 Manasseh shed so much innocent blood and filled Jerusalem. All the sins he committed and how he was punished by God and how he humbled was written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah. (2 Ch 33:10-13)

※【Deny oneself to preach and be unbeatable】17-21 Paul and Barnabas were jealous of sins. They prevented the crowd to offer sacrifices to them. However, Manasseh as king of Judah connive the people to worship idols to sin against God. Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over to stone Paul. They thought he was dead and dragged him outside the city. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up. The next day they went to other places to preach. Paul denied his life to preach the Word. He completely disregarded himself. He overcame honor and insult. He was unbeatable! Manasseh did evil all his life. He killed the innocent. He was heavily guilty and led to the subjugation and captivity of Judah. (2 Ki 24:2-4)

2.【Forsake God, be wayward and do evil】19-26 Amon the son of Manasseh continued the reign as the king of Judah. He also did evil in the eyes of God just like his father. He forsook God and did not walk His Way. His officials conspired against him and assassinated him. He received his deserved reward.

※【Urge men to keep the Lord's Word persistently】22-28 Paul and Barnabas strengthened the faith of the disciples in various places to remain true to the faith. They had to go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church with prayer and fasting. Then they committed them to the Lord and returned to Antioch. Amon reigned but he forsook God and did evil. Thus he suffered for his sins. He deserved his death and led his nation to be subjugated and captivated. The apostles suffered for Christ and had a share in the glorious kingdom of Christ. They established churches in the cities. Then they returned to Antioch to declare God’s grace. They served and waited and continued to open up new missions. Manasseh and Amon his son were evil. They were punished. Only when Josiah continued to rule and renewed completely, he was favored before God.

**Ps 114 / Rev 16:21 Main theme: Rebel and great plague comes, turn from sin and obey the Word, God reveals His almighty**

 **-God's power / Calamity**

God was angered and sent huge hailstones and great plague, so that men might turn from sin to Him. But many cursed God on account of the plague. Thus they became bitter and bitter and put themselves to destruction.

(1)【Come out of the world and follow the Lord】1-2 In order to come out of Egypt (the world) we ought to rely on the blood of the Lamb and eat His flesh. The truth will sanctify us and remove the old yeast (our old character) to become the dwelling of the Lord. In everything we ought to let the Lord be in the first place and be ruled and controlled by Him. Where the Spirit goes, we will go.

(2)【The hurdles turn to help】3-4 The sea which prevents us to move ahead will be separated and the water in Jordan will turn back. All mountains and hills are nothing before Zerubbabel and will become level ground. By the dispatch of God all mountains and hills will turn to cheerleading just like the soldiers who caught Paul were turned to his bodyguard.

(3)【What is the reason】5-6 Why has the environment had this change!

(4)【At the presence of the Lord】7-8 There is this great change because there is the presence of the Lord. There is His incomparably great power for us who believe!

**Central point of the wheels: Remove anything detestable, overcome glory and shame, keep the Word persistently and God works for the good of it**

Dear Lord, may You make me forsake evil completely, to suffer to preach the Word, be zealous to save men, to overcome glory and shame and everything will work for the good of it!

**2 Ki 22 / Ac 15**

**Main theme: The holy words are the standard, do not swerve to the left or to the right, preach and guard the Word**

 **-Repair the temple / Debate upon the Word (the book of the Law / breach the gap)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 22:19 Ac 15:8-9

A discussion on repairing the temple and debating upon the Word - on one side it concerned Josiah became the king of Judah. He imitated David without swerving to the left or right. He ordered to repair the temple. He trembled at the book of the Law and was favored without trouble. On the other side it concerned Paul and Barnabas were faced with the disturbance of the circumcision faction. They debated boldly for the Word and breached the gap of the church so that the church of the Gentiles became steadfast in truth.

**A. By redemption breach the gap, be bold to debate for the Word**

Repair the temple (2 Ki 22:1-13) - Breach the gap (Ac 15:1-26)

1.【Repair the temple】1-7 Josiah reigned when he was young. He sought the God of his father David and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, not turning aside to the right or to the left. (2 Ch 34:1-3) He cared for God’s temple and ordered the chief priest to collect money (salvation) to repair the temple of the Lord and prepare for the materials. The people in charge were faithful without blame.

※【Breach the gap】1-12 A few who belonged to the circumcision group came down from Judea to Antioch to teach the foreign church if they did not perform circumcision they would not be saved. Faced with this serious error of violating the basic faith of ‘righteousness by faith’, Paul and Barnabas determined to reject and argued with them greatly. Thus for this argument, they went up to the city of Jerusalem to see the apostles and the elders. Josiah ordered to repair the temple while the apostles met to discuss which was also to breach the gap of the church. Paul and Barnabas held firmly to the truth just like Josiah did not turn to the right or to the left. Peter took the lead to testify the Gentiles had heard the gospel and received the Holy Spirit. They should not put the yoke which even their fathers could bear on the necks of the foreign church.

2.【Tremble due to the Lord's words】8-13 Hilkiah the high priest found the Book of the Law in the temple and Shaphan the secretary reported to the king. When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes and trembled in repentance. He immediately ordered Hilkiah and the officials to inquire of the Lord about what was written in the book. Great was the Lord’s anger because their fathers did not obey the words of the book.

※【Keep the Lord's order strictly】13-26 James quoted the words of the Scriptures testifying the Gentiles were also a people for Himself. So they sent a letter to the foreign church to abide strictly of God’s command to abstain from the filth of the idols, sexual immorality and the meat from strangled animals and food sacrificed to idols. The whole church sent some leaders to them so the foreign church abided strictly to the Lord’s Word and they were established due to God’s words. King Josiah was also favored in trembling because of the words of God’s Book of the Law.

**B. Fear the Lord's words, be contrite and seek, abstain from sin**

Seek (2 Ki 22:14-20) - Abstain from evil (Ac 15:27-41)

1.【Abandon God and be in disasters】14-17 Josiah sent men to see Huldah the prophetess. So Huldah replied God’s words to him that He would bring disaster on the place and its people according to everything written in the book. It was because they had forsaken God and burned incense to other gods. They had provoked God with their hands without stopping.

※【Keep the Word and be comforted】27-35 The church of Jerusalem had sent Judas and Silas with Paul and Barnabas to the foreign church to confirm by word of mouth on what was written. The Holy Spirit did not put great burden on them except to abstain from the few laws. The church in Antioch was encouraged and strengthened. Huldah and the apostles were faithful to preach and guard the Word to be the spokesmen of God’s will.

2.【Be humble and contrite will turn from disasters】18-20 Huldah the prophetess replied to the officials sent by the king to inquire of God. As Josiah’s heart was responsive and he humbled before God to tear his robes and cried before Him when he heard that God would bring disaster as written on the book, therefore God answered him. He would be freed from the disaster and go in peace to his forefathers.

※【Insist on one's idea and depart】36-41 Before Paul and Barnabas set out, Barnabas wanted to bring Mark his cousin with him. Paul had no feeling for anyone and insisted on the principle of choosing co-workers. This was because Mark had once turned back in the middle of the road and had not repented. Thus he did not agree to bring him together. Barnabas thus parted with Paul. Josiah humbled due to God’s words and sought His will. He was favored without disaster. Paul selected Sila and went around Syria and Cilicia strengthening the churches. He started his second parade sermon. Huldah the prophetess was also faithful to God’s will. She had no partiality and completed her assignment.

**Ps 115 / Rev 17:1 Main theme: Be wicked will be punished, obey the Word will be blessed, all glory be ascribed to God**

 **-Glorify God / Be punished**

Those who do wicked will be punished. Blessed are those who overcome and do good by God.

(1)【Glory be to God】1 Those who are favored should never steal God’s glory or ascribe the glory to anyone. We ought to ascribe the glory to the Lamb who was slain and the Father God. Only He is worth the glory.

(2)【Be led astray and accept idols will be put to shame】2-8 Though the idols are shining dazzling and mislead men’s heart, they are harmful to men. If we have idols in us, we cannot speak of God’s true words. When we read the Scriptures, it would be like a sealed scroll. We will not hear of the Lord’s words and our nose cannot smell without any sense of smelling like the aged Isaac. He took his elder son as his idol. Thus his hands could not touch clearly and mistakened Jacob as Esau. His feet could not obey God’s will and his throat could not pray. As a result, he was disgraced and let the Gentiles disdain him where is your God?

(3)【Trust in the Lord's help will overcome】9-11 Everyone will overcome the deceitfulness of the idols and all his inner and outer foes if he trusts in the help of the Lord.

(4)【The Lord will bless those who fear Him】12-16 Whoever overcomes by the Lord and fears Him will be blessed more and more. His descendants will increase and gain possession of the land.

(5)【We ought to praise God forever】17-18 If we die in sin, we cannot praise God. If we overcome by the Lord, we may extol God. We ought to fear Him forever and always be in His grace to glorify Him and lead men to praise the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Guard the truth, breach the gap, overcome by God and glorify Him**

Dear Lord, may You make me be humble and contrite and tremble at your words, to be bold to guard the Word and breach the gap, and be blessed by You!

**2 Ki 23 / Ac 16**

**Main theme: Remove all wickedness, do not mind about others' business, preach the Word in accordance with the Spirit**

 **-Remove evil / Do good**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 23:25 Ac 16:9-10

A discussion on removing evil and doing good - on one side it concerned Josiah the king of Judah led the whole nation to renew the covenant and obey the Word before God. He thoroughly removed all detestable idols and the high places. He also led them to observe the Passover and remember God's great love of redemption. Regrettably, he finally did not take the exhortation of God through Pharaoh and perished. On the other side it concerned Paul and Silas did not work by their own decision but were submissive to the Holy Spirit. God opened a way for their message in Europe. In their distress, they saved many.

**A. Listen and walk the Way, remove all wickedness, walk according to the Spirit and open new work**

Destroy wickedness (2 Ki 23:1-14) - Open new work (Ac 16:1-15)

1.【Renew the covenant and obey the command】1-3 Not only did Josiah tremble at God’s Book of the Law; he also gathered the people at the temple and read the Book to them. He also renewed the covenant in the presence of God to obey Him and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

※【Sustain the church】1-5 Paul and Sila obeyed God’s will and started the second parade sermon. They selected a young co-worker Timothy in Lystra. He knew the holy Scriptures from infancy and had sincere faith (2 Ti 1:5; 3:15) just like Josiah who valued God’s Book of the Law. He was well spoken by his brothers. Thus Paul brought him with them. As they travelled from town to town, they delivered the decisions of the churches of Jerusalem for the people to obey so the churches might shun away from adultery and serve the Lord in a godly manner just like Josiah led the people to renew the covenant before God. The churches were thus strengthened.

2.【Obey the Lord's command to destroy all wickedness】4-14 Josiah’s heart had the jealousy of God. He followed the Book of the Law and boldly removed all the idols and impurity. He forbade anyone to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire and burned the chariots dedicated to the sun. He also removed all the detestable high places which Solomon built in the Hill of Corruption.

※【Obey the Holy Spirit to open new work】6-15 Paul and Sila worked not by their own decision but by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prevented them to preach in Mysia and Bithynia and they obeyed. They passed by Mysia and went down to Troas to wait for God’s will. At night Paul saw a vision and heard the calling from the Macedonians to preach in Europe. Josiah obeyed to remove all the idols. Paul also obeyed to forsake his own choice to obey the Holy Spirit to open new work. When they arrived Philippi of Macedonia, they were led by the Holy Spirit to preach in a place of prayer. Many women were favored. A woman named Lydia thirsted for the truth and her whole family was baptized. Then they received Paul warmly. The church must remove all human idea and human work, and then they will see the effort of the Holy Spirit!

**B. Remember the Lord's love, save men in distress and obey till the end**

Observe the feast (2 Ki 23:15-37) - Suffer (Ac 16:16-40)

1.【Destroy all evil and observe the Passover】15-23 Josiah burned the altar at Bethel and ground it to powder. He also removed the bones from the tombs and burned on the altar just as what the man of God prophesied (1 Ki 13:1-2). But he spared the bones of the man of God and the old prophet. According to what was written on the Book, the king ordered to observe God’s Passover to remember His great love of redemption by the blood of the lamb to lead them out of Egypt. This was unprecedented since the time of the judges.

※【Overcome a spirit, suffer and is put in prison】16-23 That place of prayer had the work of the Holy as well as the work of Satan. A witch used her witchcraft to earn a great deal of money for her owners. She followed after Paul and Sila and shouted for many days. Thus Paul drove out spirit in the name of the Lord. When the owners realized their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Sila to the authorities. Thus they were beaten. Josiah led the people to remove all the idols and observed God’s feast. They served zealously. Paul and Sila drove away the evil spirit and led men to the true God. They also learned from the Lamb of the Passover to suffer and sacrifice and offered completely. (1 Co 5:7)

2.【Violated the command in grace and perished】24-30 Josiah was wholehearted to God. He achieved what was written in the Book to remove all idols and there was no king like him. But he did not take God’s warning through king Pharaoh and intervened in a war which did not concern him and was killed. He was arrogant in grace. It was a pity he died an unnatural death. (2 Ch 35:20-24) If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! (1 Co 10:12)

※【Obey the will and save men in distress】24-34 After Paul and Sila were beaten, they were put to jail and their feet were in stocks. They suffered in the flesh but their spirits were free. About the midnight they prayed and sang hymns to God and the other prisoners listened. Suddenly there was a great earthquake and the doors of the prison flew open and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer fell trembling before Paul and Sila. He then brought them to his home and listened to their preaching. He washed their wound and set a meal before them. Josiah was arrogant in grace and violated the law and thus died in the hands of the foreign king. His people lamented for him. Paul and Sila sang songs of praise in their distress and saved men. They led the whole family of the jailer in grace!

**Ps 116 / Rev 17:2 Main theme: Call on the Lord as long as one lives, be able to escape from the enemy's harm, preach widely and repay the kindness**

 **-Be released / Be led astray**

The inhabitants of the earth were led astray and sinned. So how to overcome the temptation?

(1)【Call on the Lord as long as one lives】1-2 Be watchful to plead sincerely and call on Him always throughout your life.

(2)【The Lord saved me】3-11 When the power of sin came upon me, I called on the Lord to save my soul. He saved me and led me walk in the land of the living.

(3)【How can I repay the Lord's goodness】12-15 Lift up salvation so many may enjoy the joy of salvation because the Lord wishes everyone to be saved and does not want anyone to perish. He does not want the saints to be led astray and die.

(4)【Lead the people to praise God】16-19 I have experienced the perfect salvation of the Lord and gained the true freedom. I have truly become God’s servant. The Lord has released all my bondage of sin. So I will give thanks and fulfill my vow; to be watchful for myself and also for all of God’s children in the church. May the people all over the world be freed from the confusion of sins and come to praise the true God!

**Central point of the wheels: Remove evil and repay the kindness, follow the Spirit and preach the Word**

Dear Lord, may You make me remove evil thoroughly, follow after the Holy Spirit, tremble with fear, preach the Word and save men, and repay your goodness!

**2 Ki 24 / Ac 17**

**Main theme: Do wicked and be taken captive, be zealous to witness the Word, bear fruit in distress**

 **-Be captivated / Recapture (remove evil / do good)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 24:14 Ac 17:30

A discussion on being captivated and recapturing - on one side it concerned Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin, the kings of Judah were wayward and did wicked. They did evil in the eyes of God. Thus they were consecutively captivated to Babylon and even the treasures and the gold articles were taken away. On the other side it concerned Paul preached the Word in Thessalonica. Though they were persecuted, they were delivered by God. Even when they were waiting in Athens, they were zealous to witness the Word and recaptured the hearts of men to know the true God.

**A. Captivated due to sin; preach the Word and is saved**

Is taken captive (2 Ki 24:1-9) - Is saved (Ac 17:1-15)

1.【Captivated due to sin】1-6 Jehoiakim the king of Judah was evil. He despised God’s words and burned the scroll. He killed the prophet (Jer 36:20-26) and provoked God to anger. Thus king Babylon came up to Judah and forced him to surrender. Three years later, he betrayed him again. God made the foreign nations united their army to attack him and destroy Judah. It was also due to the sins of Amaziah who filled the holy city with detestable idols and the innocent blood that God was not willing to forgive. As a result Jehoiakim was bound with shackles and brought to Babylon and died in the foreign land. (2 Ch 36:5-8)

※【Suffer for the Word and is saved】1-10 Paul and Sila came to Thessalonica. They reasoned with the people from the Scriptures and explained that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. So many believed and were favored. Jehoiakim forsook God and did not submit to the punishment of sins. Thus disasters came and Judah was captivated. The disbelieving Jews were full of jealousy against Paul. They rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace and claimed those men had caused trouble all over the world and defied Caesar’s decrees, saying there was another king called Jesus. The brothers immediately sent them to Berea. The apostles suffered for the Word and were saved. But Johoiakim was captivated due to sins. On one side was preaching the Word to save men, while on the other side was shedding innocent blood. Johoiakim was sinful and could not escape God’s judgment. He deserved his death. But Paul was judged for no reason. He escaped in danger and was saved.

2.【Continue to do evil】7-9 King Babylon took all the territory from the king of Egypt. Thus the Egyptian king no longer marched out from his own country again. This was to give a lesson to the people of Judah not to depend on the worldly power of Egypt. Jehoiachin reigned for three months and still did evil things. He followed the evil practices of his father Jehoiakim.

※【Continue to preach the Word】11-15 Paul and Sila came to Berea and continued to preach the Word. The people of Berea thirsted for the Word. They examined the Scriptures every day and received the truth. Many thus believed. God made the power of the king of Egypt became corrupt so that the king of Judah would not rely on his power but to trust in the words from God’s mouth just like the people of Berea. But Jehoiachin did not learn to be good when he became king. He still followed all the evil of his father and continued to do wicked to make God angry. The Jews of the city of Thessalonica went to Berea to persecute Paul. But Paul was escorted by the brothers to Athens. They continued to preach the Word and were delighted by God.

**B. Be zealous to witness the Word and recapture the hearts of men; sin and is captivated**

Rebel (2 Ki 24:10-20) - Scorn (Ac 17:16-34)

1.【Sin and is captivated】10-16 The Babylonian troops besieged the holy city and afterward the king of Babylon came personally. Jehoiachin, his mother, his attendants and his officials all went out of the city to surrender. King Babylon also carried all the fighting men into exile. He took away all the treasures from the temple of the Lord because the king of Judah turned away from God and did not keep His command. They served and worshiped other gods. God had forsaken the temple which He set apart for His name.

※【Recapture the hearts of men】16-27 While Paul was waiting in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the whole city was full of idols. He disputed with the Jews and the people and also with two famous groups of philosophers. When he saw an altar inscribed with ‘to an unknown God’, he declared the God of heaven and earth who gave all men life and breath so that men would seek God and no longer be ignorant. He declared to them to repent and turn to the true God. Paul was like a fighting man and the treasures of the temple. He was courageous to preach the Word. Though he was treated like speaking rubbish, he was undeterred. He grasped the hearts of men to know God. But the king of Judah and the fighting men were all captivated because they rejected God.

2.【Rebel, do wicked and provoke God's anger】17-20 Zedekiah reigned but was also like Jehoiakim who did evil in the eyes of God. He was stiff-necked and hardened in his heart. He was unwilling to humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet. Thus God’s wrath came to him and he thrust his people from his presence. (2 Ch 36:11-13)

※【Scorn and disbelieve will be judged】28-34 In the last sermon of Paul, he declared God had given the proof to all men that He raised Jesus from the dead and He would judge the world with justice. When the people heard of this, some had believed but some sneered just like the hard-hearted Zedekiah. They would receive the righteous judgment of God.

**Ps 117 /Rev 17:3 Main theme: Understand the enemy's plot in the desert and lead all people to gain salvation**

 **-See in the spirit / Preach extensively**

(1)【Discern in the desert】Only by retreating to the desert without seeing a person, we may see what the Lord wants us to see. We may then understand the mystery of the gospel and see thoroughly the deceit of the enemy. The woman that is the evil one uses everything on earth to mislead men to sin and do evil. They will thus run towards the grave and doom to destruction. The animal is the persecution of the anti-Christ.

(2)【Lead all people to praise the Lord】1 The Lord’s mind wants everyone to be saved and does not want anyone to perish. Therefore Paul said we have to request, first of all, for everyone. The Lord commanded us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. We are favored to be freed from the power of sin. We ought to understand the mind of God to make every effort to lead men to gain the joy of salvation.

(3)【Witness God's unfailing and faithfulness】2 Only repent for our sins. How great is God’s unfailing love and faithfulness to those who fear Him. He redeemed us from the bondage of sin to be an instrument of righteousness to lead many to the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Preach zealously, recapture the captivated, identify the enemy's plot and preach to all the people**

Dear Lord, may You let me preach the Word zealously, be bold to witness the Word and recapture men's heart so all people will praise your unfailing love!

**2 Ki 25 / Ac 18**

**Main theme: Rely on oneself or on men is miserable; be bold to obey God's will flourish**

 **-Rebel / Obey the will (demolish / build up)**

Golden verses: 2 Ki 25:12 Ac 18:9-10

A discussion on rebellion and obeying the will - on one side it concerned Zedekiah was stubborn and rebellious. He was not willing to obey to surrender to Babylon or submit to the punishment of sin. Instead he betrayed the king of Babylon and resulted in the holy city was besieged with a big famine. Finally it was broken through and captivated with shame. On the other hand Paul obeyed God's will and went to Corinth to preach. In distress he had a vision and was sustained by God. Everything worked for the good of it and he was delivered by God in great distress.

**A. Rebellious and harm will come; obey the will gain victory**

Were burned (2 Ki 25:1-12) - See a vision (18:1-11)

1.【Deserted by everyone】1-7 Zedekiah was originally a puppet king set by Babylon. Afterwards he allied with Egypt and betrayed Babylon. King Babylon led his entire troops besieged the holy city and created a big famine. The city was broken through and the army scattered. Zedekiah fled embarrassingly, but was finally overtaken. He was brought before king Babylon and judged. His enemy killed all his sons before his very eyes and his eyes were put out. He died shamefully in Babylon.

※【Co-workers match with one another】1-5 Paul obeyed God’s will and came to Corinth to preach. He met Aquila and Priscilla and stayed with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue to persuade the people. Thereafter Sila and Timothy also came. Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Zedekiah was rebellious and disgraced. He was betrayed by everyone and fell into desperation. Paul obeyed God’s will and He opened a way for him and prepared more co-workers for him. On one side was rebelling against God and met a famine. On the other side was obedience to God and brought abundant life to men.

2.【The temple is burned】8-12 The commander of the imperial guard set fire to the temple of the Lord and the royal palace and broke down the walls around Jerusalem (Pro 25:28). He also captured the rest of the populace. It was all because Zedekiah was rebellious and would not obey to surrender.

※【Strengthen by God】6-11 The Jews rejected and slandered against Paul. They forsook salvation and took their own sin just like Zedekiah who was rebellious till the end and would not choose a living road. Paul turned to the Gentiles and many believed the Lord. God strengthened him at night not to be afraid and keep on speaking. Paul stayed for a year and a half and taught them the word of God. On one side was obeying and preaching the Word full of God’s presence. He was strengthened by God to establish the church. On the other side was being wayward and rejecting the Word. He lost the presence of God. The nation was subjugated and taken captive. God’s temple was destroyed and men’s spiritual temple was also destroyed.

**B. Contend for power and benefit brings disasters; deny oneself to preach the Word and God helps**

Fight for power (2 Ki 25:13-30) - Preach the Word (Ac 18:12-28)

1.【Was executed and ravaged】13-21 The enemy broke up the bronze pillars, the stands and bronze Sea and carried them away. Even all the gold and silver and bronze instruments were all moved away. The commander of the guard also brought the chief priest, the priest and doorkeepers to Babylon and they were executed. It was because they became more and more unfaithful and followed all the detestable practices of the nations. They defiled the holy temple and scoffed at the prophets and there was no remedy finally.

※【Was led and God worked for the good of it】12-22 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jew made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio declared to stop the judgment and ejected them from the court. God made the authority work for the good of it and Paul was thus freed from danger. He was helped by God! Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time and was led by God to Ephesus. Thereafter he returned to Antioch and ended their second trip. The faithful servant advanced in danger just like the bronze pillars in the temple which stood firm in the truth, not afraid of being charged. God’s will went through. The sinful leader lost the Word and was without help. He was killed tragically and forsaken by God.

2.【Contend for power and benefit and bring harm to the people】22-30 After Judah was subjugated, he became a province of Babylon. The officers struggled for power among themselves and strived against one another. It was all in a mess and out of control. Gedaliah was appointed as the governor and all the officers gathered at Mizpah to see him. He gained power for a time. He urged the people to submit to Babylon and thought they might be blessed. Unexpectedly he was assassinated by Ishmael in the seventh month. All the people of Judah who took shelter in him were also killed and resulted in a great tragic case in Mizpah. The people were afraid and followed Johanan to Egypt. They went toward destruction. Jehoiachin the king of Judah was willing to humble and surrendered. He was raised by the Babylonian king and favored to be released from prison. It was because God kept His word and His covenant with David to prepare the genealogy of Christ. (Mt 1:11-16)

※【Help one another in love and are favored together】23-28 Paul spent some time in Antioch and started his third trip to strengthen the churches in various places. On one side was Antioch’s gathering to match with the co-workers. On the other side was the gathering in Mizpah with struggle for power. Apollo was zealous for the Word and had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He came to Ephesus and was invited by Aguila and Priscilla. They explained to him the way of God more adequately. Apollo was humble to take the lesson and favored just like Jehoiachin was blessed in distress. The officers struggled for power and devoured one another. They allowed the people to be harmed and were destroyed together.

**Ps 118 / Rev 17:4 Main theme: Call on to the Lord, overcome temptation, enter the narrow gate and preach salvation**

 **-Destroy the enemies / Be led astray**

Who can overcome the temptation of the prostitute? Only by calling on to God and trust in Him will overcome.

(1)【Call on and be granted, we ought to give thanks to the Lord】1-5 God richly favored all who call on Him. Everyone who asks receives. We ought to give thanks to God’s everlasting love when He saves us from distress or temptation.

(2)【With God's help we will destroy the enemies】6-14 Do not be afraid of the surrounding attack of the enemies. We will overcome with God’s help. By God’s name we will cut them off.

(3)【The Lord's right hand has done mighty things】15-24 God’s powerful hand will help all who seek Him. Thus I will not be given over to death. But I will proclaim what God has done. I will make every effort to enter through the narrow door and obey the Lord’s word till the end. By that time I will rejoice.

(4)【Pray to be saved and have success】25-29 The Lord has saved me from all sins and die completely to the world so I may gain success to be sent. I am willing to be the Lord’s slave of love to be led where He wants me to work to repay His great love.

C**entral point of the wheels: Do not be led astray, obey the will to preach the Word, pray and trust in God's help**

Dear Lord, may You let me take deep warning, to be humble and obedient, be zealous to preach the Word, be faithful to your assignment and overcome the power of the prostitute!